

FBIS**DAILY REPORT
CONTENTS****Near East & South Asia**

Vol V No 159

18 August 1987

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

18 August Middle East and South Asia Review AA 1

ALGERIA

Iran's Sheykh ol-Islam Concludes Visit 17 Aug [IRNA]..... A 1
Bendjedid Receives Message From Libyan Envoy A 1
Ibrahimi, Libyan Official Review Events in Chad [Tripoli]..... A 1
Messaadia, Libyan Official Confer [Tripoli]..... A 1

CHAD

President 'Pleased' With U.S. Stand on Aozou [AFP]..... B 1
Information Minister Urges Halt to Libyan Actions [MENAF]..... B 1

EGYPT

Mubarak Addresses Expatriate Workers Conference C 1
Interior Minister Speaks C 9
Butrus Ghali Leaves To Visit Mexico 16 Aug C 10
Opposition Party Condemns Attack Against Isma'il C 10
AL-WAFD Notes 'Coolness' in Sudan Relations [13 Aug]..... C 10

LIBYA

OAU Requested To Work for French Troop Withdrawal D 1
Paper Says Habre 'Aggression' Gives Right To Respond D 1
Lebanon's Junblatt Arrives in Tripoli for Visit D 1
Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Habash Telegram of Support D 1

SUDAN

Deputy Assembly Speaker Meets With Soviet Muslims G 1
Foreign Minister Calls for Upholding Coalition G 1
National Alliance Demands to Government Reported G 1
Defense Minister Leaves for Southern Kurdufan 15 Aug G 1
Armed Forces Chief Affirms Security in South G 1

TUNISIA

Further Reports on Sousse, Monastir Hotel Bombings H 1
Islamic Jihad Claims Responsibility [VONR]..... H 1
'Terrorist Gang' Members Arrested H 1

ARABIAN PENINSULA**KUWAIT**

Security Council Urged To Implement Resolution 598 J 1
Foreign Minister To Attend Arab League Meeting J 1
AL-SIYASAH Interviews Prime Minister on Gulf War J 1

SAUDI ARABIA

Attache Dies of Injuries Sustained in Tehran	J 3
Charge Says Iran To 'Return' Embassy Premises [AFP].....	J 3
Iranian Pilgrim Official Ordered To Leave Country [Tehran].....	J 3
Iranian Allegations Denied	J 3
Council of Ministers Views Mecca Security Report	J 3
Assassination One of Iran's 'Tools of Terrorism' [AL-NADWAH].....	J 4
Official Denies Reports of Arrears to Syria	J 4

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Envoys To Brief Saddam Husayn on Al-Asad Talks	J 5
Security Source States East Coast Clear of Mines	J 5

IRAQ

Minister 'Aziz Message to UN's Perez de Cuellar	K 1
UAE President's Envoys Arrive in Baghdad 17 Aug	K 3
Received by Saddam Husayn	K 3
Further Reportage on Gulf War Operations	K 3
Communique No 2,780 Issued	K 3
Attacks on Civilians Denied	K 3
Communique No 2,781 Issued	K 4
Communique No 2,782 Issued	K 4
Communique No 2,783 Issued	K 5
Communique No 2,784 Issued	K 5
Iranian Opposition Operations, Successes Reported	K 6
INLA Actions Noted	K 6
Mojahidin-e Khalq Action Noted	K 6
Komla Attacks Reported	K 6
25 Killed in Naval Exercise	K 6

ISRAEL

Shamir Departs For Visit to Romania 17 Aug	L 1
Briefs Media Before Leaving	L 1
Further Coverage on Visit [cross-reference].....	L 1
Results of Political Adviser's Talks With Soviets	L 1
Peres Cautiously Optimistic	L 1
Agreement Reached With Hungary	L 1
Soviets Optimistic on Syrian Role	L 1
Correspondent Assesses Talks	L 2
Consequences of Government Decision on JEC Reported	L 2
Decision Should Be Rejected [AL-FAJR 16 Aug]	L 2
Workers Go on Strike	L 2
Pro-Jordan Movement Formed in Territories	L 3
Syrian Golan Fortifications Said Nearly Complete	L 3
Force-17 Claims Responsibility for Gaza Attack	L 3

LEBANON

Charles Glass Escapes Kidnappers in West Beirut [VOL]	N 1
Syrian Role Cited [VOL]	N 1
Sources Detail 'Escape' [Idhin Radio].....	N 1
Reaches Damascus After 'Release' [AFP].....	N 1
Hizballah Claims Responsibility for Saudi Blast [VOL]	N 1
SSNP Official Reportedly Killed in 'Akkar [RFL].....	N 1
Official Reported Alive [VOL]	N 1
3 Killed in Inter-Lebanese Forces Clashes [VONR].....	N 1

Rockets Hit Iranian Guards Center in Ba'labakk [VOL].....	N 2
Syrians Prepare for 'Certain Operation' in Suburb [RFL].....	N 2
Investigator Rescinds Salibi Arrest Warrant [VONR].....	N 2
Television To Cease Transmission Due to Strike [VONR].....	N 2

SYRIA

Hostage Glass Leaves Beirut, Arrives in Damascus	O 1
Official Says Glass 'Released' [AFP].....	O 1
Glass Details Escape [Monte Carlo].....	O 1
Minister on Remaining Hostages	O 1
UAE President Arrives on State Visit 15 Aug	O 1
Makes Statement Upon Arrival	O 1
'Closed' Meeting Held	O 2
Talks Resume 16 Aug	O 2
Talks, Luncheon Held 17 Aug	O 2
Visit Extended; Envoys Sent [Monte Carlo].....	O 2
Zayid Receives Libyan Envoy [Abu Dhabi].....	O 3
Meeting Held 18 Aug	O 3
Al-Shar' Opens Arab Meeting on Terrorism	O 3
Committee Concludes Meetings	O 3
People's Assembly Speaker Leaves for USSR 18 Aug	O 4

AFGHANISTAN

Politburo Approves Gorbachev-Najib Meeting Report	P 1
Najib Chairs Draft Constitution Commission Session	P 1
Chamkani Chairs Revolutionary Council Session	P 1
7 Pakistani 'Aggressors' Reportedly Killed 15 Aug	P 2
Mujahidin Disrupt Fuel Transfer From USSR [IRNA].....	P 2

BANGLADESH

2 Killed, 1 Injured in Dhaka Explosion 17 Aug [AFP].....	Q 1
Gandhi Special Envoy Calls on Ershad 17 Aug	Q 1
Envoy Ends Talks, Departs	Q 1
Japanese Foreign Minister Concludes Visit, Leaves	Q 1

INDIA

Prime Minister Delivers Independence Day Address	R 1
Protocol Signed With USSR on Sensor System Launch	R 3
Defense Minister Denies Charge on Bofors Deal	R 3
Upper House Members Debate Colombo Peace Accord	R 4

IRAN

Government Explains Death of Saudi Attache	S 1
Reza'i 'Forcibly Expelled' From Saudia Arabia	S 1
Prime Minister Views Gulf Minesweeping Operations	S 1
Naval Commander Notes Minesweeping Capability	S 1
Navy Official Says U.S. Laying Gulf Mines	S 2
Naval Commander Details Minesweeping Operation	S 3
Foreign Ships Warned	S 3
Khomeyni Meets With Families of Martyrs 18 Aug	S 4
Khamene'i Visit to Khorasan Province Continues	S 4
Says Mecca 'Blatant U.S. Crime'	S 4
Responds to Reagan's Speech	S 4
Meets With Guards Corps	S 5
Fisheries To Purchase 36 Trawlers From PRC	S 5
Tehran Comments on 'Islamic Awakening' in Egypt	S 5

Indictment Presented Against Mehdi Hashemi	S 6
Iraq Prepares To Resume 'War of Cities'	S 6
Combat Operations in War With Iraq Continue	S 6
Shelling of Al-Basrah Denied	S 6
Centers Shelled 'in Retaliation'	S 7
Iraqi Jetties, Umm Qasr Shelled	S 7
Communique No 2,930	S 7
Iraqi Bombings Kill Civilians	S 7
Iraqi Targets in Umm Qasr Hit	S 7
Iraqi Counterattack Repulsed	S 7
180 Iraqi Casualties Reported	S 8
Iraqi Planes Bomb Industrial Sites	S 8

PAKISTAN

Protest Lodged on Afghan Border Violations	V 1
President, Prime Minister Greet Indian Leaders	V 1
Paper Questions Logic of Postponing U.S. Aid [JANG 1 Aug]	V 1

SRI LANKA

Reportage on Grenade Attack in Parliament House	W 1
AFP Reports Attack on Ministers	W 1
LANKA PUWATH Confirms Attack	W 1
Special Presidential Message	W 1
Injured Ministers Listed [Delhi]	W 1
Attacker Escapes in Confusion [AFP]	W 2
Junior Minister Dies [AFP]	W 2
Jayewardene Blames Banned Party [AFP]	W 2
National Security Council Meets [Delhi]	W 2
Lifting of Emergency in North, East Delayed	W 2
Civil Administration Being Reestablished in Jaffna	W 3

18 August Middle East and South Asia Review

LD181326 [Editorial Report]

Lebanon-Syria

Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' handed journalist Charles Glass over to U.S. Embassy officials in Damascus 18 August, Damascus radio reported. Stressing that Syria "exerted every possible effort" to secure the journalist's release, Al-Shar' added that Syria will continue to work for the freedom of all hostages in Lebanon. Glass, who was kidnapped in West Beirut 17 June, escaped his captors and fled to the Summerland Hotel, Voice of Lebanon radio announced. However, according to a "senior Syrian officer" cited by AFP, Glass was "released" in Beirut's southern suburbs.

Gulf Conflict

Khamene'i Warning — Iran "will not show the slightest sign of compromise" with the United States, President 'Ali Khamene'i declared in remarks cited by IRNA. Reiterating that the United States risks retaliation if it attacks Iranian "warships, ports, or jetties," Khamene'i also warned that the Iranian people will "teach the international arrogance a lesson in the war fronts."

Minesweeping Activities — "All waterways" on the UAE's east coast have been cleared of mines, according to a statement from an Al-Fujayrah security source cited by QNA 18 August. The statement added that operations will be continued with the aim of ensuring the waters remain free of mines. Meanwhile, IRNA reported that naval forces have been instructed to "strongly respond" to any attempts to obstruct their minesweeping activities. An Iranian commander told Tehran radio that the navy is continuing its minesweeping "with complete control and full power."

Battlefield Developments — Iraqi warplanes struck a "destructive blow" against Ahvaz oil field No. 1 and attacked sugar plants in Dezful and Shushtar, according to a military communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio. IRNA noted that some workers were killed and wounded in air raids that damaged three industrial units in Khuzestan. In retaliation, Iranian artillery shelled "economic-industrial centers" near Al-Basrah, Al-Zubayr, and Barzan, as well as the Al-Bakr and Al-'Amiq oil platforms, IRNA reported. The port of Umm Qasr was also shelled in reprisal for alleged Iraqi attacks on nonmilitary targets, the agency also reported.

Iran-Saudi Arabia

A Saudi diplomatic attache died in Tehran of injuries sustained when "demagogue elements" attacked the Saudi Embassy following the Mecca incident, SPA reported. According to a "responsible source" at the Saudi Foreign Ministry, Iran's "procrastination and delay" in allowing the diplomat's medical evacuation, contributed to his death. According to IRNA, the

diplomat's condition "deteriorated" after he arrived at the airport for a special flight.

In further controversy surrounding the hajj, the Iranian Foreign Ministry summoned the Saudi charge to receive a "strong protest" regarding the treatment of pilgrims at Medina and the "illegal expulsion" of several hajj officials, Tehran radio reported. However, a "responsible source" denied the Iranian charges, telling SPA that the Iranian pilgrims supervisor and other hajj officials left the country according to plan and after "concluding their rites."

The Saudi wing of Hizballah claimed responsibility for the 15 August fire at a Saudi gas plant, according to a statement issued in Beirut and reported by Voice of Lebanon radio 18 August.

Iraq

President Saddam Husayn received Ahmad Khalifah al-Suwaydi, personal envoy of UAE President Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nahayyan, and Rashid 'Abdallah al-Nu'aymi, UAE minister of state for foreign affairs, Baghdad radio reported. Prior to the UAE officials' arrival, Abu Dhabi radio reported that the UAE president and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad had agreed in Damascus to dispatch the mission to Baghdad as part of the UAE's "continuous efforts to clear the atmosphere between Syria and Iraq."

Israel

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir was welcomed to Bucharest by his Romanian counterpart, Constantin Dascalescu, AGER-PRES reported 18 August. In predeparture remarks carried by Jerusalem radio, Shamir said that he planned to exchange views with Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu on the subject of an international conference on the Middle East and the question of establishing ties with the USSR and the PRC.

Regarding relations with other East Bloc countries, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres revealed that Israel and Hungary recently agreed to open interests offices, Jerusalem television noted. Peres expressed "cautious optimism" on the issue of setting up a "direct channel of communications" with the Soviets, Jerusalem radio reported following disclosures that his political adviser, Nimrod Novik, held 10 hours of talks with a Soviet Foreign Ministry official in Bonn. Novik told Jerusalem radio that the Soviets agreed in principle that an international conference would not be empowered to "impose a solution" or "intervene in bilateral talks." The Soviets are also optimistic that Syria might participate in talks, Novik reportedly said.

Pakistan

The Afghan charge d'affaires was summoned to receive a "strong protest" over separate "unprovoked" artillery attacks on Mohmand, Khyber, and Bajaur Agencies 2-8 August, Karachi radio reported.

Tunisia

Six men arrested in connection with the 2 August explosions at tourist hotels in Susah and Munastir confessed their guilt as well as their involvement with the opposition Islamic Tendency Movement, Tunis radio reported, noting that the detainees denied any links with Islamic Jihad.

Iran's Sheykh ol-Eslam Concludes Visit 17 Aug
LD180929 Tehran IRNA in English 0919 GMT 18 Aug 87

[Text] Algiers, Aug 18, IRNA — Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam left here Monday after delivering President Khamene'i's message to his counterpart and holding talks with Algerian officials.

During his stay in Algiers Sheykh ol-Eslam met member of the Secretariat of the Political Bureau of the National Liberation Front (FLN) Mohamed Cherif Messaadia and Foreign Minister Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi. Issues of mutual interest, the Mecca massacre of Iranian and non-Iranian pilgrims by Saudi police, the Palestine question as well as the situation in the Persian Gulf and the Mideast were discussed.

Bendjedid Receives Message From Libyan Envoy
LD172100 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic
1830 GMT 17 Aug 87

[Text] This afternoon at the Presidency, Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic and general secretary of the FLN, received Mr Sa'id (Mujbir), representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in Algeria, who delivered a message to him from Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution.

Ibrahimi, Libyan Official Review Events in Chad
LD152021 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic
1930 GMT 15 Aug 87

[Text] This evening, Brother Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, member of the FLN Political Bureau and minister of foreign affairs, received the brother secretary of the Libyan-Arab brotherhood in Algiers.

At the meeting, consolidating and developing all prospects for fraternal cooperation which can set in motion integration toward the unionist steps between the two fraternal countries was discussed.

The meeting also covered imperialist aggression against the southern border of the Great Jamahiriya and reviewed current Arab and international issues as well as numerous topics of common interest.

Messaadia, Libyan Official Confer
LD112126 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic
1930 GMT 11 Aug 87

[Text] Brother Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, member of the Political Bureau and official of the Permanent Secretariat of the FLN party, received at noon today in Algiers the brother secretary of the Libyan-Arab brotherhood. At the meeting, the development and consolidation of the scope for bilateral cooperation within the context of the unionist steps between the two countries were discussed. The meeting also dealt with the imperialist reactionary military aggression on the southern international border of the Great Jamahiriya.

President 'Pleased' With U.S. Stand on Aozou
A3171936 Paris AFP in French 1735 GMT 17 Aug 87

[By Christian Millet]

[Excerpts] Ndjamena, 17 Aug (AFP) — Chad has once again reproached France for not assisting it enough and is now placing part of its hopes with the United States, at a time when everyone in Ndjamena expects an imminent new Libyan offensive in the country's north. If President Hisssein Habre is, for the meantime, taking care not to raise this issue, Chadians — both highly placed officials and the man on the street — are not hiding their feelings.

In his office, where the telephone rang frequently on 15 August with news from the battlefield or requests for instructions, President Habre, in an interview with AFP, carefully avoided making any comparison between the attitude of the United States which, a few days earlier, had officially expressed support for Chad's position on the Aozou Strip, and the very reserved statements made by several high-ranking French officials on this issue. "We are pleased with the U.S. attitude, which is positive and which conforms with international law," President Habre pointed out while dodging a response to the question on the cautious position taken by Paris since Aozou village's recapture by Chadian forces on 8 August. [passage omitted]

Chadian authorities were careful to mention they were expressing their personal views, but their views were very clear. One of them, very irritated, stated "We are not asking France to come and fight in our place. But to allow the civilian population to be bombarded in towns like Faya-Largeau, far from the battlefield, is cowardly, inhuman, and disgraceful, especially for a country that still pretends to be a great power." Another Chadian official affirmed "Through these ambiguous statements on Aozou's status, France is encouraging Libya's annexationist intentions and casts some doubt in international circles as to the soundness of our cause." One Chadian trader went even further: "The French have stated they were not interested in Aozou and that it was up to us to handle it. The Libyans understood this message and are now attacking."

Information Minister Urges Halt to Libyan Actions
NC142008 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1715 GMT 14 Aug 87

[Text] Khartoum, 14 Aug (MENA) — Chadian Information Minister Adoum Moussa Seif has expressed his appreciation for Egypt's efforts to establish peace in Chad and to settle African and Arab issues. He described Egypt's stand on the Chadian issue as clear and courageous. The minister added that in view of its

importance, Egypt is qualified to play a role in solving existing conflicts in the Arab world and Africa.

In a statement to a MENA correspondent in Khartoum, the Chadian minister stated that Libyan warplanes are continuing to raid the areas that Chad has recently recaptured in the Aozou Strip. He revealed that the Chadian forces had recaptured the region in response to the Libyan offensive launched against the areas of Bardai, Tsai, and Fada. He additionally stressed that the FANT and people are prepared to defend all of their territory. The Chadian minister asserted that Libya must cease its attacks against Chadian territory for peace, good-neighborly relations, and cooperation to be established in both the Libyan and Chadian peoples' interest.

The Chadian minister pointed out that except for Goukouni Oueddei and Acheikh ibn Uomar, his nation is now witnessing national reconciliation among all parties. He noted that former followers of Oueddei and Uomar have joined the government and that Adoum Yacoub, a former assistant to Oueddei, has been given a leading position in the FANT [second deputy commander in chief]. [Former GUNT Vice President Wadal Abdelkader] Kamougue additionally has been appointed secretary of agriculture.

The Chadian minister voiced regret that Goukouni Oueddei still takes orders from Libya. He affirmed that if Oueddei abandons Al-Qadhdhafi and returns to his homeland, he will have a role in Chadian politics.

The Chadian minister disclosed that he had briefed Sudanese officials on developments in the Libyan-Chadian conflict. The Sudanese officials, he noted, pledged that Sudan will not allow its territory to be used as a springboard for aggression against another nation. These same officials further stressed that Sudan is seeking to establish peace and good-neighborly relations with all countries in the region.

As for Libya's complaint to the United Nations and the OAU following Chad's recapture of the Aozou Strip, the Chadian minister declared: This is strange. Libya formerly ridiculed and assailed the United Nations and the OAU. The United Nations and the OAU possess a file on the Chad issue covering several years. There is nothing new; all that has happened is that Chad has regained its territory.

Concluding his statement, the Chadian minister called on Libya to cease its military operations and to act toward peace, good-neighborly relations, and cooperation.

Mubarak Addresses Expatriate Workers Conference
NC151430 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
 0831 GMT 15 Aug 87

[Speech by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak to the Fourth Conference of Egyptians Working Abroad held at Cairo University — live]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Brothers and sisters, there is no need for me to welcome you on your own land and in your home. There also is no need for me to express my feelings of happiness and pleasure at this magnificent Egyptian gathering, which represents an Egyptian awakening that has gone abroad to the various countries of the world both East and West. This awakening seeks greater knowledge. It endeavors to build with pure sweat and honorable labor; to learn and teach; to give and take; to exchange the fruits of experience and expertise on all problems; to develop feelings of friendship and brotherhood; and to fulfill its role in securing a dignified life for mankind everywhere.

It has always been a source of pride for me during my travels outside the country to hear things about Egyptians who work and study abroad. This brings honor and pleasure, and confirms that they are the best representatives of their country. These Egyptians have been enriched by their culture. They preserve their history, heritage, and traditions; carry out their work with sincerity, faithfulness, and honor; and give an honorable picture as to what a good citizen should be in his country and abroad. If your behavior outside the homeland merits respect and appreciation, then it is your distinction and superior performance in your specialized fields that overwhelms foreigners. Many Egyptians have displayed an intellectual brilliance and have become noted pioneers sought by people from various parts of the world for their knowledge and to benefit from the fruits of their ingenious discoveries and expertise. This is something that is recognized throughout the world. The world press and media have highlighted this distinction and superiority.

All of these distinguished and outstanding Egyptians have not forgotten their Egyptian nationality. Their international fame has not prevented them from maintaining a profound and firm link with their homeland. This, brothers and sisters, confirms that Egypt is for all Egyptians, whether inside or outside the country.

Brothers and sisters, this is your fourth conference. Undoubtedly, you have noticed new developments and new accomplishments every year when compared to the year before. The manifestations of this are clear in the sphere of industrial development, in the expanded agricultural production, in housing, transportation, communications, energy, tourism, and other aspects of work. This is unequivocal proof that we are seriously endeavoring to rebuild the country, to compensate for what has been lost in the past, and to establish solid foundations for social and economic development. We are striving to accomplish all of this despite the difficulties we are facing. Some of these difficulties are due to outside factors, the most important being the unjust world economic order. Some of the problems are due to domestic factors, particularly the shortage of resources, the terrible increase in population, and the debt problem which is facing all Third World

countries without exception.

However, the severe challenges have not and will not affect our determination and will. [applause] We have resolutely advanced along the difficult roads with scientific planning. We have taken note of the priorities. We have not closed our eyes to any deficiencies and shortcomings along our course. We have dealt with what is necessary. The wheel has not stopped turning. We have chosen concrete solutions, although their results will take a long time to appear. We have rejected the method of tranquilizers, which postpone the suffering but do not end the sickness. This confirms our seriousness in planning and execution. This has gained the respect and appreciation of international institutions, and has allowed us to reach international agreements that give us the chance to continue to push our development forward.

Perhaps you have noticed the foreign media's constant references to this new spirit. The talk about Egypt has become one about achievement and stability, thank God. The world can sense and gauge these things accurately. The world now sees Egypt as a country that has mobilized all of its strength to achieve a dignified life for its people. It is a country that enjoys press freedom and no restrictions on any opinion or idea. It lives under a democratic system based upon a multiplicity of parties. Its laws are issued by the will of the nation, and its people participate in the adoption of decisions in deeds and not just words.

These are the pillars of the stability which we enjoy, in one of the most volatile areas of the world. This region is exposed to international strife, conflicts among powers and interests, and threats of war and terrorism. This is in addition to Arab divisions which gnaw at our existence and negatively affect a political and economic integration which should have existed a long time ago.

Stable Egypt — an Egypt which has confronted all the battles on the path of development, an Egypt which is strong with its Army, accomplishments, and its people's will — is appealing to you, today, in this distinguished conference, to positively share in what exists and what should exist. [applause] There is no restriction on ideas and views. No limit has been set on the proposals that may be raised at this conference. True democracy is the basis of success and the way to arrive at correct decisions.

I do not believe that I need to explain to you in detail about the democratic structure in Egypt. It is a structure that is solid and which is further consolidated as time goes by. However, I will take this opportunity to speak to you about the essence of this democratic structure, the basis of its existence, its development, and why it continues to flourish. Democracy is not a mold from which copies and samples can be made to be applied everywhere in the world. Democracy is a means and a goal. Every country is governed by its historic, geographic, and social circumstances, as well as its traditions, customs, and heritage.

By virtue of your experience and what you have seen, you know that democracy takes many forms which differ from one country to another. Democratic practices that are good in one country — which has achieved a high degree of economic growth, social stability, and the ability to confront the basic challenges facing it — might not necessarily be appropriate for another country that has different circumstances and values. Moreover, the

democratic practices in both countries must be flexible to permit their continuous development and enhancement.

Egypt has faced numerous changes before and after the 23 July revolution. [applause] The balance or imbalance between social democracy and political democracy was the focus of these changes. We eventually adopted social democracy, which does not obscure political democracy; and then adopted political democracy, which achieves social democracy.

The democracy in which we live is the result of practices, experiences, and changing circumstances. It is the natural line that constitutes a balance between various ideas, trends, and beliefs to ensure that no minority can impose an intellectual terrorism and that the majority does not turn into a masked dictatorship. This balance is governed by the obligation to guarantee society's values, ethics, heritage, and traditions.

It is with this understanding and with this conviction that we embarked upon the road of democratic construction. Our eyes and minds focused on each step of the way to ensure that it would be successful and that we would reap its fruits. To take a step merely for the sake of doing so is not important; rather, what is important is that we should know where we are walking and where we are heading. We did not want democracy to be merely for adornment. We did not want it to be a democracy for settling accounts and venting grudges. We did not want it to be a fragile democracy that could be exploited and manipulated for personal ambitions. We did not desire a democracy too weak to defend itself against its enemies. [applause] We also did not want it to be a democracy of slogans that soon wither and die. When we did set up parties, our aim was for them to be serious ones that would enrich democracy and further strengthen its stability with their actions.

When we called for press freedom, our true aim was for opinion to be voiced freely and without fear of any kind of censorship or confiscation. There was a constant commitment to prevent foreign ambitions from infiltrating our democratic structure and all its constitutional components. We were constantly vigilant to ensure that this structure would not be shaken by the horrors surrounding us in this part of the world.

The decisions based on the Constitution were aimed at protecting and defending democracy and guaranteeing its conviction that we have opted for democracy as a way of life and not as an experiment that may be subjected to various shortcomings. It is from this conviction that stability stems and from which continuity will come.

There have been so many experiments that soon collapsed because the form overshadowed the weak substance. But does this mean that our democracy is making progress free of faults? Certainly not. There are mistakes and excesses. There also are attempts at exploitation and improper investment. We should not forget, however, the popular vigilance and the democratic awareness that distinguishes between truthfulness and deception. There is the continuing interaction of the practice of democracy which curbs faults and eventually leads to the sound objective. [applause] I am sorry if I have talked too long. I would, however, like to say that the chief characteristic of democracy is its

capability of correcting itself without resorting to violating individual rights. Democracy is a system that respects duties, as there can be no freedom without responsibility.

Brothers and sisters, I know that you have defined a number of topics for discussion which will be followed by recommendations. I also am aware that you have formed committees that officials will attend so that you can investigate anything that might have escaped your mind and so that you will understand what is truly taking place in your cherished homeland, Egypt.

Please allow me to tell you frankly that the people expect you to adopt practical recommendations. The people are your kinfolk. These recommendations, the number of which is not important, should be subject to immediate implementation. We need positive recommendations that should deal with reality and that should be implemented in a way that will achieve your interests and those of all citizens. [applause] You are not dissociated from Egypt's existence. [applause] You are an integrated part of this entity. I know that your stay abroad has not interrupted your visits to Egypt, nor has it prevented you from keeping abreast of developments here. No one among you has abandoned his family or has made a decision without taking into consideration the ties that bind you with the soil of the homeland.

This is the true nature of the Egyptian, wherever he may be. He always has a role or should have a role to play in the development of his country and his entire family. With this concept in mind, I have chosen to talk to you on one basic subject.

There is no doubt that you are aware of what was achieved during the first 5-year development plan. These were real achievements which the people can sense and see in their daily life, and not figures which were given in order to deceive and delude them. Undoubtedly, you are fully aware that we were confronted with a sudden drop in revenues as a result of the decrease in world oil prices and the decline in Egyptian remittances from abroad, as well as other reasons. There also was the difficult year in which we had to deal with the question of due installments and interest on foreign debts. All of these factors demand productive work from us.

As expatriates, you are not mere spectators regarding what is happening in Egypt, applauding when we do well and criticizing if we do not. You are participants — I repeat, you are participants — because you are Egyptian. Your participation is not the result of compulsion or force, but of conviction and persuasion. [applause] Your country does not want gifts and donations from you. Your country does not want your participation to cause you any loss, however small it may be. Rather, it hopes that your participation will benefit everyone. [applause]

The rumors which tendentious people spread have ended. The purpose of such rumors was to cause fear and terror and to cast doubt upon our public and firm policy, which is to respect ownership and encourage investment. Yes, these myths, which raised doubts in many people and led to a decline in positive financial contributions, have ended.

I believe that the degree of progress in the various spheres in Egypt is clear to you. Whoever has been away for some time can

see this. I believe that most of you used to return to Egypt in the past with your suitcases full. You brought with you St Michael shirts, blouses, cotton shirts, or non-iron nylon shirts made by I do not know who. [applause] I believe that things have changed now. The one who comes back does not know how much to pay for extra weight. You buy shirts, blouses, shoes, and underwear. I know some of you who have filled your suitcases and do not know what to do. [applause]

I now would like to turn to the agricultural and industrial progress we have made and to give poignant evidence of our scientific planning. Had it not been for the development and progress in the agricultural and many other fields, we never would have been able to feed a people whose number increases by 1.3 or 1.2 million every year. How do we secure food for these people when the total area of cultivable land has not changed?

Housing is a difficult problem. Although we have constructed more houses during the 5-year plan than were built in the 20 years preceding the plan, I admit that the housing problem remains acute. However, our work is in full swing and we are marshaling all of our capabilities and potentials. We do not deny it. [applause]

Regarding Egypt's infrastructure, there can be no investment in a country that lacks strong foundations. Who is willing to construct a building without a foundation? Naturally, the building will collapse, people will die, and money will be wasted. You should have foundations before constructing a two-storey building. You have engineers and experts among you. A three-storey building needs a bigger foundation. The infrastructure is the basis of investment, progress, and development in Egypt. The infrastructure was worn. Certain domains have not been renovated or repaired for 70 years. This includes sewage, water, electricity, telephone lines, roads, and so on.

A glance would suffice to make one desperate. One would ask how can this be repaired, and say that the people cannot wait. One would say: Look at the sewage or at the water pipes. One would say: This is a bad country. How can I resolve the problem of sewage? They believe that I can do that by simply pressing a button. They believe that I can bring electricity and water with a press of a button. This is impossible. Let us live in reality. [applause]

We have drawn up a plan. We said that the sewage system will be completed in so many years because, for example, the Cairo sewage system needs 4.5 billion [Egyptian pounds]. We do not have that much money. The state's income is 13 billion pounds. If I were to take 4.5 billion from this income, the people would not find food or water, and many people would die. This demonstrates the tremendous efforts that are being exerted to improve the country's infrastructure in order to attract investors here. Tell me, who would invest his money to build a factory when there is no water or electricity? He is not going to bring a generator. No investor would come to build a factory when there are no communications needed to order his raw materials.

I have said previously that electricity totaled 17 billion kilowatt hours before the 5-year plan. It totaled 45 billion kilowatt hours on 30 June. [applause] From 1906 until the revolution [in 1952],

we had 500 million kilowatt hours. We had 17 billion kilowatt hours from 1952 to 1982 including the high dam's power production. There has been an increase of 28 billion kilowatt hours produced in the 5-year plan. [applause]

Despite all this, it is not enough. We need more and more electricity. The electricity minister has given me a headache. He wants nuclear stations; he wants and he wants. But let him bear with me until I am convinced of the matter. I need to study it carefully.

We also do not hide our heads in the sand in the face of obstacles that may impede the facilitation and encouragement of investment. We have our routine and our bureaucracy. However, things have changed a great deal compared to what they were in the past. We have smashed many barriers in the past few years. Bureaucracy exists in all countries. Do not believe that bureaucracy only exists in your country. There is also extensive bureaucracy in the United States.

I once was talking to a former U.S. President. We had concluded a deal on vehicles as part of an aid package. We sent them the completed documents; the documents remained with them for 6 months. When I went to meet with the U.S. President — I was then vice president — he told me that there is bureaucracy in Egypt. I told him: Mr President, the documents were sent to you 6 months ago. Your bureaucracy is 100 times worse than in my country. He said: Maybe. I told him: Not maybe; it is the truth. The documents have been with you for 6 months, and now you complain that we have not processed them. Bureaucracy exists in all countries. Because of our need for greater activity in the investment, trade, and export fields, we are trying to eliminate as much of this bureaucracy as possible.

We are dealing with humans. We cannot just touch a button and end bureaucracy. We are dealing with humans. Everyone thinks for himself. Someone came to me and said that ending export control should be looked into. I told him: Please explain this to me. It turned out that someone said this because of a personal interest in it. The matter was settled.

There are many examples of bureaucratic behavior. In some cases, an employee is afraid to make a decision and wants an order from a minister. He is afraid he will get into trouble. We want to end this. The state is exerting enormous efforts in this regard. [someone is heard in the background making an unmonitored remark] I am not talking about a specific matter. Please, sit down.

We do not deny that there is bureaucracy. No one can deny that. Whoever can end it completely will be a hero. I will give him the highest medal in the state and pay him 5,000 pounds a month in violation of the law. Let him show me this cleverness and how he will do it. [applause]

We can overcome the routine. We are not drawn by cryptic mentalities which cannot understand the meaning of constructive openness. We have before us a firm and ambitious plan. We are confident of our ability to implement it with the same results as the first plan, and perhaps even more. We have devoted a large part of our efforts and resources in the past years to dealing with

the vestiges that have accumulated for over 50 years. We also are endeavoring to establish a strong foundation for a new structure, one that is capable of responding to the hopes of the masses; one that efficiently deals with the requirements of the age under the modern scientific and technological revolution; one which will leave clear fingerprints that will be difficult to remove from various aspects of life on this planet.

It was necessary during that period to concentrate on major infrastructure projects in the fields of roads, railways, communications, energy, water, sanitary drainage, and so forth. A large measure of attention also was devoted to preparing a comprehensive plan for reconstructing the desert areas. I believe that you know the cities we have built. These are new cities which have now become established. This includes 10 Ramadan, which has become a large industrial city, 6 October, Al-Sadat City, and others which have flourished within a short period. Is this not proof of our seriousness in the implementation of the plan? [applause]

We need to modernize and renovate existing factories. The equipment being used in certain public sector factories dates back to 1938. You can imagine the output of these factories.

The previous plan called for the modernization of factories in order to increase the production of the public sector and, consequently, to promote revenues. While most factories recorded losses in the past, now only 11 percent of them do. Although this figure is still high, we should not seek to get rid of the public sector. Anyway, I will not allow this, because it is the sole guarantee allowing the poor people to purchase their basic needs.

There is another field I would like to address. There is no need to open public sector shops for Ta'miyah [popular Egyptian dish] or for shawurmah [charcoal-broiled mutton]. Likewise, there is no need to open public sector hotels. I am not concerned with hotels. Perhaps there are instructions to this respect. I do not even want the government to participate in this. Let the private sector handle the hotel business. [applause]

There also are obstacles on the way to introducing modern methods to the field of irrigation. People, however, say there are no obstacles. I tell them there certainly are obstacles. We are in an age in which we should move to make progress. There is no need for the government to take over the shawurma shops or other restaurants. We must look for the basic materials which represent the sole guarantee for the Egyptian people, the majority of whom are poor. This is their guarantee. If I were to eliminate the public sector, the private sector would sell commodities at any price. There are needy people who cannot buy at high prices. I have my own factories which produce and which make a profit. After developing the public sector, this sector generated 3.6 billion [Egyptian pounds] in profits for the state. In addition, the taxes which this sector paid amounted to 1.8 billion [Egyptian pounds]. The public sector is the biggest taxpayer. We should expect it to cope with more than the major industries which the private sector cannot handle.

We must modernize our factories utilizing the experience of other countries, although within the limits that we set. We must benefit from the scientific discoveries in the field of genetic

engineering. We also must draw up a comprehensive plan for economic reform that would radically resolve problems and would be based upon increasing production and productivity; encouraging national industry; eliminating all obstacles on the road to exports; and ending the futile argument over the issue of preference between the public and private sectors, as if these two sectors contradict each other with regard to objective and interest. Both sectors complement each other.

My interest in the private sector is similar to my interest in the public sector. This is because the public sector can never meet all of the needs of the citizens. The private sector bears the brunt in meeting those needs which the public sector cannot. It is a sound concept that the two sectors are two sides of one coin, and that there are vast opportunities for each one to expand. Each of the two sectors aims at increasing production, improving productivity, and enabling Egyptian commodities to compete with foreign ones. When the private sector develops and becomes more active, the public sector would become jealous and would increase its production and improve itself. They are Egyptian; this sector is Egyptian and that sector also is Egyptian. Let them compete. But the public sector belongs to the poor people like us who are part of the Third World. That is why we should preserve this sector.

It is unacceptable to arouse this controversy at a time when all states in the East and West are pursuing a practical course that does not adhere to rigid ideological molds. Someone may enquire as to what the character of our economy is. I am not an economist nor an expert on this subject. However, I read and listen to people. We have numerous economists. Let us see how the countries of the Eastern bloc manage their economy. I am addressing public opinion, the people, you, and every citizen, and I would like my views to reach the people. What are the Eastern bloc countries doing at present? Are they applying the socialist system to the letter? No. They are now embarking upon an open-door economic policy and investment projects. They are several steps ahead of us. We have been slow in our open-door policy. Arab and non-Arab financiers have invested billions in those countries. I do not want to mention these countries but simply note that they now recognize personal property. The world has changed, and socialist theories have stumbled.

Let us now turn to the West. When its industry was the most advanced in the world... [Mubarak changes thought] Free trade. [incomplete sentence as heard] When a certain country's industrial products were about to dominate world markets, they called for those products to be protected. Why? These products compete with each other. They are similar. Where are capitalism and socialism? They are getting closer to one another. Circumstances dictate that a country protect its products. Circumstances dictated that the other economy [not further identified] should embark upon investments; otherwise, it would have become poorer and collapsed. It needed grains from other countries. When shall we achieve self-sufficiency in grain? I will carry anyone on my shoulder who could show me how we could achieve self-sufficiency. I would carry him throughout Egypt, from Numah to Alexandria. [applause] However, he must not sow only grains and leave us with nothing else. We must not sow only grains on all the arable land.

I am not an agricultural expert. I saw the desert from an airplane. It is being cultivated. Those who do not want to cultivate the land are lazy. [applause] I have come from a zone on the northern coast. I have seen this area every year. This time, however, I did not know where I was when I flew over the area. It was cloudy and I thought I was flying over the delta by mistake. I found myself west of Al-Nubariyah and south of Burj al-Arab. I have seen cultivated land, water pipes, houses, fodder factories, chicken-breeding complexes. I was happy to see this. These are not my property, but I was happy to see the people cultivating the desert and building it up. [applause]

We all are working. Why is everyone working now? To fill our pockets? No. We all are working for our sons and the coming generations. The youths in the universities and the graduates are working toward this goal. Everyone now has a house, a car, food, and other things. So why are they working? They are working for our sons and the coming generations in order to secure a decent life for them. We are not so selfish to say it is enough and that we should be content to leave our sons some money. Your sons will spend the money. We are working for the coming generations, I mean, the generation that has been born and the coming generation. We must look to the future in our plans to benefit our people. [applause]

All peoples have realized that the real challenges they face are related to overcoming the grinding local and world economic problems; catching up with the contemporary revolution in agricultural and industrial production; providing a larger measure of stability and security for the individual and society; and protection for the environment and from the dangers that threaten mankind's existence.

Now that we have almost finished eradicating the residues of the past and erecting the necessary bases for reconstruction, and after having succeeded in reaching a unanimous popular agreement on the aims of national action in the coming stage, it has become imperative that the coming years should witness a big leap forward. It should, in fact, be a new starting point and a rejuvenated renaissance of the creative spirit inherent in the conscience and heart of this people in order to draw an image of the new Egypt [applause] that is taking firm steps toward the 21st century. It is not appropriate to speak at length at this gathering about all of the aspects of the new program for this starting point, because the talk is very long and diversified. Additionally, there is still scope for constructive contributions from official and private institutions, experts, and those interested in the issues in order to guarantee a maximum degree of popular participation in drawing up the map of the future. [Mubarak addresses somebody in the hall at this point] I see you are happy because of Sawhaj [city in upper Egypt]. It has a bridge and is full of vigor now. There is a twin track railroad, and God will provide more.

It will suffice to propound to you now my concept of the principal features of this program with emphasis on the following issues:

1. We must carry out a radical reform of the Egyptian educational system that would take into consideration the experiences we have been through in the past and the lessons that have been learned from them. We must make use of the expertise available to other countries throughout the world, and consider Egyptians'

short- and long-term needs. This reform must extend to all aspects of education to include the provision of suitable schools, the preparation of capable teachers who can contribute — and I believe you are aware that a national conference on education was held and that studies were made, and are still continuing, to draw up priorities and to see how the plan would work — to making changes in the curricula, and to amend the tutoring and examination system. The aim should not be to concentrate the largest volume of information in the students' brains in an automatic and dumb way, and to measure their ability to retain and memorize this information; rather, the emphasis should be on developing their talent for inventiveness and creativeness [applause] and on polishing their character and training them to think and debate in an objective manner.

I believe that the debate on education is moving in this direction. For years now, we have been giving 20 books to high school students at the start of each year and telling them to keep on memorizing and memorizing. If they get a question that needs simple understanding, all is in vain. I do not want us to be dependent on memorization. The whole world has developed. In examinations for the GCE [General Certificate of Education] in England or in high schools in the United States, or those in Japan and other countries — and some of you have come from these countries and can tell us your views — the questions asked are not direct ones. Students are not asked to name the rules of this or that. If the student is not clever, he gets lost. List the reasons for the fall of this. What a catastrophe. Where is memorization? The computer fails with him. The boy gets tired; his mind freezes up, and he cannot answer. He fails. [applause]. He keeps studying until 4 am, and God help him if he is awake in the morning. He has a cup of coffee or tea, or even takes pep pills. He takes these before the examinations and memorizes well. Then he fails or gets only 50 per cent.

We want to see the extent of the student's talents and ability in these circumstances, as is the case elsewhere. The GCE exams are never direct. Never. I know one person who sat for the GCE exams. He memorized a lot and then checked previous exams and found out that there were no direct questions. What a catastrophe. He bought GCE papers and read them all. Not one of the questions was direct. It was not a matter of testing the student's memory, but of whether he understood or not, whether he had absorbed the subject matter or not.

Our system should be like this. I am not a teacher, nor am I an expert on education. [applause] I am merely expressing the feeling of a father of children who has had such an experience. We have all seen students go abroad. The one who goes to high school abroad succeeds. Here, a student gets the books and seeks private lessons, not school. We know this, and this is what is motivating us.

I am not an expert on education. I am only expressing ideas that I have heard. I am a citizen like you. I have children. I went to school, and I listen to the views of others. I believe that the education conference is studying this issue. This conference should bear in mind that we seek to build the student's personality, train him in objective thinking and discussion, and deepen his feelings of affiliation to the homeland, its heritage, and civilization. In the past, our school curriculum included a subject

entitled national education. At that time we understood the world around us. If I read the national education book now, I will not understand anything. I do not know our system. They say the national education book was prepared by the local council. We want a simplified subject for the students. Shall I send them to your local schools? [laughter and applause] The education conference should seek to deepen a student's feeling of affiliation to the homeland, its heritage, and civilization through an understanding of its history, achievements, and contribution to civilization.

2. We must implement an ambitious plan to expand the area of agricultural land in Egypt, so that with modern agricultural methods we can cultivate more of the desert. The state's role in this plan will be to provide the infrastructure enabling national companies and individuals to reclaim and own land, and facilitate the export of crops.

Some people think that they can have the land and water to irrigate it in traditional ways. We provide land, but it must be clear that we cannot cultivate the whole desert. If we could, we would be ready. Our water resources are limited. Some people may say the desert is extensive. It is, but there is not enough water. These people want water to irrigate the desert in conventional ways. This is impossible. We must follow modern methods of irrigation to save water, because we use a great deal in our irrigation. This type of irrigation could damage the land and make it less productive. The farmers' attitude toward this issue is still rigid. Those farmers who have cultivated the desert areas are employing advanced techniques of irrigation, using sprinklers and drip systems. I am pleased to see this progress. As I flew over the delta, I saw these projects and I was glad. I don't think any of you have seen these areas. Anyone who travels outside Cairo and sees these projects will feel happy about his country and will have hope for the future. Without hope life is meaningless. [applause]

[Mubarak responds to a comment from a member of the audience] You want to sit cross-legged and have the land come to you? The land will not move to you; you have to move to it.

We wish to implement an ambitious plan to expand agricultural land in Egypt so that larger areas of the desert may be cultivated by modern methods. The state's role would be to provide the infrastructure so that national companies and individuals may reclaim and own land, and to facilitate the export of crops. Many people have been given pieces of land. If anyone has any problems, these can be solved. [applause]

3. This is not the problem. How did all these farmers cultivate the land? Did they take the minister to their land? It requires some action. What can I do for you? Bureaucracy is a problem for us. A minister may seek to facilitate things, but there are officials who hold up the processing of applications. You should argue with those officials so that your case may be dealt with. You will obtain your rights, although you may be rather tired by the time you reach your goal. We are passing through a period that requires some hard work. We must all resist bureaucracy to make matters easier. Since the people and employees have come to expect that things should run smoothly, they will do so. What official does not want to see agricultural and housing projects

succeed? We are telling you to take land and make full use of it. But this is impossible. You can seek the advice of agricultural experts and take land and build factories. The state is trying hard to facilitate these things. [Mubarak answers someone in the audience] The planners do not hinder; they plan. Do not make things up. You are wrong in what you say. [applause] You want to get something for nothing. Sit down. [applause]

We also wish to double industrial production through the increased industrialization of Egyptian agricultural and mineral raw materials, the establishment of new industrial zones throughout Egypt, and the encouragement of individuals to establish small- and medium-sized industries. This is another field.

4. We seek the promotion of tourism through the establishment of new tourist villages. A few days ago, I was walking along the Mediterranean coast and went as far as Al-'Alamayn. I saw some nine villages. I stopped at each village to look at it. I was alone at the time. Neither the tourism minister nor the construction minister knew about this. But I later asked some questions, and they have probably heard about it by now, as they spy on me wherever I go. [Mubarak laughs and audience applauds] In fact, these were not tourist villages, but some of the owners would rent out their houses.

We want to work out a model for tourist villages to be built not by us or by the Tourism Ministry, but by a group that will run these villages. I saw several villages between Burj al-'Arab and Al-'Alamayn. Perhaps 90 percent of you and our people know nothing about these villages. It was the first time I had seen them. I could not believe my eyes. I first went to Marqya and then to a village called Al-Ballah. I entered and saw people sitting there. I saw nice houses and was told that they cost 15,000 or 20,000 pounds. I talked to the people there and met a Foreign Ministry official who was about to leave for Bonn. I asked him what he was doing and when he was going to Bonn. He said that he was happy to be in such a nice place.

I then went to somewhere called Marbella, which is under construction. I had not intended to go there, but I saw a villa and a building. I could not go in because a grader was in operation. I am as eager to see details of buildings as any individual looking for an apartment to rent. I entered the area and saw that the workers have built a splendid city that could accommodate Egypt's workers, indeed large numbers of people. I then saw the area assigned to the police. They were leveling the ground. I do not know why they are lazy and not building up the area. After that, I saw a place called Mina. The man in charge there was calling Mina, Mina; I hope this man is not deceiving the people there and that he really is building up the area. Afterward, I went to a village called Jam'iyat Misr al-Jadidah. I enjoyed inspecting the area, where I saw two buildings with residents and also some chalets by the sea that seemed to have been built some time ago.

I then went to the Marina area. This is still under construction and is going to be quite something. It is on the way to Ra's al-Hikmah, 8 km before Al-'Alamayn. I want to tell you something: I was really glad to see that villages are being built and that tourism is flourishing.

Engineer al-Kafrawi [minister of reconstruction, new societies, and land reclamation] has told me that there are two vacation houses in Ra's al-Hikmah. I went there once to take a look at them. Al-Kafrawi told me: We want to put these vacation houses in order so that capable people may go there and build. He said he is going to prepare the place there. I do not really want to go into all the details. I said: This is really a good idea. Monied people should go there instead of going to Europe. There is water there and life will thrive and the place will flourish. This is a good idea. We have beaches with beautiful water.

An Arab came to me 3 or 4 days ago. He visited me in Burj al-Arab. I intended to take him there. Normally I do not take or meet anyone there. I took him to the seashore. When he saw the water he did not believe his eyes. I am sure that most of you have not seen the water in that area. The color of the water there is so beautiful. There is nothing like it in any other country in the world. Anyone who does not believe me should go there and see for himself, and then tell me if he has seen such a color anywhere else. Impossible; you cannot find a color like that on any beach in the world. The water is turquoise, blue, and the sand is yellow. It is enough just to look at, without even going into the water. It is very beautiful. It is something that induces happiness. Such a beautiful color. [Mubarak answers an indistinct remark by a member of the audience] What? I cannot afford it; you will make me bankrupt. [laughter] If you are rich, then take me with you. Hire a bus and we will all go together. [laughter]

We should achieve a major upswing in tourism by the establishment of new tourist villages. For example, we have some tourist facilities which we have begun to lease out. I believe that (Majawish) and other facilities are rented. I want to rent facilities out. I do not want to own a hotel in order to sell it. I want to rent the hotel so that I can make profit from it. Thus I can devote my attention to bigger things in the public sector, instead of looking after a hotel or a fish restaurant. It would be unreasonable for the government to do things like that; it is the private sector which should work in this field. [applause]

We should achieve a major upswing in tourism by establishing new tourist villages, especially in the northern coastal areas and on the coasts of the Red Sea and Sinai Peninsula. To do this we must modernize the administration in existing tourist establishments, raise the standard of services offered to the tourist, and increase the people's awareness of the need to attract tourists and help them enjoy their stay in Egypt. [Mubarak responds to a remark by a member of the audience] This is an individual matter that should not be raised at such an important conference.

Brothers and sisters, these are only some of the features of the program for the new drive. I have presented them to you very briefly so that you may participate with us in drawing the picture of the new Egypt and become acquainted with the areas in which you can make a considerable contribution to the realization of our great dream. Friendly peoples in Third World states have set examples in this regard. Their expatriate citizens have, through sincere efforts, contributed to consolidating their countries' economic and social development process, especially where the transfer of technology appropriate to their conditions and requirements is concerned. They have also helped establish self-financing small- and medium-scale industrial projects; promoted

their countries' exports and opened up markets for them; and set up regular channels for liaison between research and education institutions in their country and similar institutions abroad, so that they may keep abreast of the latest scientific developments and modern discoveries.

I visited 6 October City. What pleased me was the small investors who have established factories there. For example, I saw a paint factory which is a small plant using the highest technology to contribute to the country's industry. I also saw numerous other small productive factories. The citizen can invest his money in plants of this kind. For our part, we will endeavor to make his task easier by making on-site visits to resolve any problems that may arise.

Thus, you have many opportunities available to you in small industries. There is a Japanese saying: Small and beautiful. Japan advanced thanks to small industries that developed the country. So we are not asking anyone to set up large industries requiring huge financing. Rather, we are calling for the establishment of small industries that serve the purpose and from which both the investor and the state can benefit.

We are looking forward to the expansion of the local manufacture of production equipment. The state and public sector companies will play a major part in this big undertaking. However, the door is wide open to private contributions and initiatives by members of the public. I believe that many of you may invest in these projects which do not require large capital but do require experience and knowledge of production methods and modern management, in addition to a spirit of initiative, renovation, and creativity.

It is also necessary to be aware of the areas in which the state is suffering from crises and bottlenecks while it is on the threshold of a major upsurge in industry, agriculture, and services. There is something charming in this country: We talk about food security. There is a shortage of eggs in the country and we are still importing them. Then a hatchery is established. Then second, third, and fourth hatcheries are set up as eggs are profitable. Then everyone wants to establish hatcheries producing 15 million, 7 million, 20 million eggs. No one calculates the production capacity in the country, and we find that production exceeds our needs.

Of course, it costs more to produce an egg than it does to import it. It costs you 4.5 piasters to import an egg. It is subsidized and they have readily available feed. The egg dealer then comes and says: Eggs are cheap and I want to raise the price, and so on. Although he is making a profit, he wants to double his profit. It is a shame. He would not mind making 50 piasters from an egg that has cost 5 piasters. This is no exaggeration, and I do not say this is not greed. I am mentioning eggs as an example. When you establish an industry of any kind you must study the market, as the whole world does. There was a time when eggs were profitable. All the talk was about eggs, and then everyone was running after chickenfeed. Well, take it easy, make studies and plans before you start producing eggs and other things.

Should the opportunities available in new fields be unclear in your minds, you can meet with officials who will be able to give

you further clarification and details, and resolve whatever problems you may have [applause]

That is the way to deal with your problems. It cannot be done at a public conference. If you find that projects, whether small or large, should be more closely defined, you have the right to ask for this. Some of you have previous experience in investment. Come forward and tell us about it, the negative aspects before the positive ones. We want a dialogue that yields results and discussions that lead to a decision.

You have not come to attend this conference, traveling all this way, for a mere discussion by committees that ends up in nothing, or for debates in which you merely exhibit your knowledge. Rather, you have come to Egypt to participate in the process of construction. I believe you are absolutely serious in this, and that you wish to reach decisive results. I also believe that the purpose of this conference of yours is not merely to write recommendations on paper that are never carried any further. This conference has been convened to outline a plan for continuous work. It is a basis for an upsurge, rather than a transitory matter. Bear these facts in mind in your studies of investment. The people expect a great contribution from you to the advance of the march.

Permit me to say something here which I believe to be extremely important. Take off those spectacles that exaggerate the defects, mistakes, and shortcomings. [applause] You are Egyptians, and you are more familiar than anyone with conditions in Egypt. We do not want to disregard any defects, mistakes, or shortcomings. However, we do not want any exaggeration or dismay. I very much hope that you will not approach things by making comparisons between what is happening in Egypt and what happens in the great advanced states. A fair and objective assessment takes all circumstances and available resources into account. This does not mean that we should not aspire for what is finer, more perfect, and better. There can be no development if there is no ambition. We do not say that no improvements can be made, but we do say that we must develop and choose the right path, now that our vision has become clear and that the landmarks on the road have been defined.

The major states have productive and technological capacities and solid administration, in addition to other important factors necessary for development which we do not have or which are lacking to a considerable degree. All these conditions must be taken into account when you make decisions regarding the question of investment. There are some who say the expatriates have decided that they will live outside Egypt and that their future lies in the foreign countries where they reside. What can then tempt them to come to Egypt to invest some of their money, see this investment through, and put up with obstacles and difficulties? What can tempt them to do so? The answer to this question is that if a foreigner comes to Egypt to invest his money, then why should an Egyptian not do the same? [applause] The purpose of investment is to reap profits and gain benefits, but an Egyptian's investment in his own country has the additional element of a response to spiritual feelings that are part of him and will always bind him to his homeland and bring him closer to his land and soil. It is an indisputable fact that the soul of an Egyptian overflows with feelings of loyalty.

In view of all this, I welcome the choice of theme for this fourth conference. This theme is the role of Egyptians abroad in serving national development issues. I hope that the conference will translate this idea into correct and practical terms.

Brothers and sisters, development serves peace and stability. The goal of development is to create more resources that can be turned into a tool for the achievement of social justice through the services which the state provides for the citizens and through job opportunities. Our young people look forward to more, and it is their right to hope, aspire, and proceed toward their legitimate ambitions. National efforts in this regard must be founded on a scientific basis and on experience. Many of you have experience in this field. Some of you are eminent professors in the greatest universities in the world. I hope you will contribute to the debate on the recommendations of the education development conference which was held last month.

We want our development plans to be based on firm scientific foundations, supervised and implemented by young people of developed mentality who are not isolated from world advances in the fields of production and services. This must be backed by firm national unity.

During your stay in Egypt you will sense and hear that our moves toward the future are supported by our deep faith in national unity. It is no secret that wicked hands have been playing with fire; however, the conscientious masses have put an end to this abuse and nipped all seditious attempts in the bud. Through various generations our people have lived as one entity; facing ordeals as one man; defending independence and sovereignty as one rank; rushing into battle and sacrificing lives in eternal, heroic epics; and vying to sacrifice for our sacred soil with a spirit of cohesion and full faith in the strong unity which has never and will never tolerate any hidden or public attempt to tear apart the great Egyptian family, inside or outside the country. [applause]

Let your role abroad be a supportive and developing factor for this sublime spirit. Let it promote that which will deepen and cement ties of love and collective cooperation in establishing virtue and goodness. In this way we can hasten our steps to the future.

This is how the world sees Egypt: A land of stability and national unity which undertakes its role in the international arena with full commitment to international charters, complete respect for human rights, and continuous action to establish peace on firm foundations.

In this framework Egypt has always been eager to direct its foreign policy toward the achievement of two basic objectives: First, serving development and ensuring that states and various international organizations respond to Egyptian demands and interests; and, second, expanding the scope of friendship and cooperation with any state which shares this desire, closing the gap of differences and conflicts and rising above engaging in aggressive campaigns against other states, because the people's awareness would eventually expose such actions.

In order for the state to accomplish these objectives, it must determine its priorities clearly at various stages and maintain its

ability to distinguish between what is strategic and what is passing and temporary. It must distinguish between universally essential issues and subsidiary and secondary ones.

It is natural that Egypt's moves on the international and regional levels are based on its own views of its nationalist, strategic interests. Foremost among these is bolstering Egypt's strategic security in the broad sense; achieving peace and stability; confronting foreign ambitions and schemes for expansion and domination; strengthening cooperation with the developing countries that share our vision and interests; seeking peaceful settlements to regional and international disputes; and limiting the danger of an outbreak of war.

I need not talk to you in detail about the various issues that occupy us on the foreign level. I will content myself with referring briefly to three of these issues.

The first is a comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East. In this respect we believe the starting point lies in obtaining the approval of all parties concerned, including Israel and the PLO, for the convocation of an international peace conference, to be attended by all the parties directly concerned with the dispute and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council. Otherwise, the current escalation in the dispute will continue; the tendency toward violence and extremism will increase; the voice of elements calling for peace will fade away; and the entire region will once again be on the brink of war and destruction. Therefore, we reject the other alternatives some have proposed, for one reason or another, considering them an attempt to evade the responsibility of peace. [applause]

The second issue is the ongoing Gulf war, which worsens and grows more destructive daily, thus portending the gravest consequences. Egypt believes that the two disputing parties must accept the recent UN resolution, which offers a balanced formula to end the war instead of continuing the bloodshed, destruction, and squandering of resources in a way that does not serve the peoples' interests. Related to this is the issue of the violation of the sanctity of the mosque in Mecca, turning its vicinity into an arena of fighting and violence at the time of the pilgrimage. This was an effort to undermine the sovereignty of the fraternal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and its responsibility to safeguard security within its borders. This blatant threat is directed not only against fraternal Saudi Arabia but also against our brothers in the Arab Gulf states. [applause]

Egypt quickly called for an emergency summit of ICO member states to adopt a decisive position on the sanctity of the holy places so sacred to Muslims' religious rites and feelings, to reiterate the rules that Islamic states must observe in their dealings, and to end the distortion of the Muslims' image worldwide. [applause]

The third issue is the need to give top priority to economic cooperation and trade exchange between Egypt and the fraternal African states, proceeding from mutual interests and the wide potential for exchange of raw material and industrialized commodities. The existing relationship between Egypt and the fraternal African states facilitates the establishment of a balanced and stable exchange of commodities and services, and enables all of

us to obtain better conditions than those we obtain in equivalent transactions with other foreign countries. Eventually, this will reflect positively on the balance of trade for all African states and will contribute to rectifying the existing imbalance in international trade.

All the African leaders with whom I have met in recent years — meetings reinforced by my contacts during the 23d African summit conference in Addis Ababa late last month — have demonstrated their true desire to cooperate with Egypt in this regard. Therefore, we should be able to increase our cooperation in all areas of agriculture and animal resources, secure production needs, market industrialized commodities, and overcome existing food shortages. [applause]

Brothers and sisters, I have spoken for a long time. However, now that I have presented a general review of what I believe concerns the work of your conference — giving a very brief, clear picture of your country internally and externally — I repeat very frankly that we want this conference to reach positive decisions followed by positive implementation. You have before you the results of the three previous conferences. If we acknowledge that the regulation of ties among expatriates and your ties with your country have been in their preliminary stages, I believe we can now say we have transcended that phase and should choose a path of determination, expedience, and accomplishment, so that our steps will be consistent with the tempo of production in our redeemed country. Therefore, I would like you to define priorities and concentrate on what is most important and urgent, addressing the exigencies of our current stage of affairs.

Finally, I welcome from the bottom of my heart your return to your home and your people. I wish you a happy, fruitful, and beneficial stay. I implore God Almighty to help us perform our duty — each in his own position — inspired by God's guidance and grace, adhering to principles and to what is right, and advancing without hesitating or wavering. Our weapon should be our unshakable faith and diligent work for the benefit of the homeland and its citizens. May God grant us all success and guide us along the right path. May God's peace, blessings, and mercy be upon you.

Interior Minister Speaks

NC161143 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1043 GMT 16 Aug 87

[Text] Cairo, 16 Aug (MENA) — Major General Zaki Badr, the interior minister, today emphasized that Egypt is and will remain a safe country. He stated that the acts of terrorism which have taken place in Egypt in the last 2 months are not as serious as incidents which take place in other states.

In his speech today to the Conference of Egyptians Working Abroad, the interior minister explained that the acts of terrorism which have taken place are isolated crimes which do not reflect a specific ideology. He pointed out that some foreign states instigate the extremists to disturb the country's security.

In his speech, the interior minister explained that the emergency law is a law of the state and its purpose is to deal with special, extraordinary circumstances. It is not exploited for any political

goals, he stressed. He asserted that no one will apply the emergency law to the opposition papers and parties, regardless of their excesses. He said that the emergency law is applied in cases of terrorism and the like, after evidence of the crime has been provided.

The minister declared that the emergency law has not been used against honest citizens.

Following the interior minister's speech, Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Maj Gen Zaki Badr answered questions and queries from expatriate Egyptians.

Butrus Ghali Leaves To Visit Mexico 16 Aug
NC160834 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0740 GMT 16 Aug 87

[Text] Cairo, 16 Aug (MENA) — Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, left Cairo for Mexico this morning. He will head the Egyptian delegation to the fourth session of the Afro-Latin American dialogue which will open in the Mexican capital on 19 August.

Dr Ghali said that discussions at this session will deal with increasing common understanding between Africa and Latin America, bolstering political and economic ties between the two continents, and the economic crisis in the Third World.

Dr Ghali stated that he will pay official visits to Mexico and Guatemala and convey two letters from President Husni Mubarak to the presidents of these two states. He said that he will have discussions with officials in both countries on international issues and the strengthening of cooperation in various fields between them and Egypt.

Ghali announced that he will represent President Mubarak at the summit meeting of heads of francophone African states to be held in Canada at the end of this month. The summit will be attended by French President Francois Mitterrand and the heads of 20 African states. African issues and the strengthening of relations among these states will be discussed.

Opposition Party Condemns Attack Against Isma'il
NC171959 Cairo MENA in English 1948 GMT 17 Aug 87

[Text] Cairo, Aug 17 (MENA) — The opposition Al-'Ummah Party condemned today the assassination attempt against former

Interior Minister Al-Nabawi Isma'il and termed it as an act of (?terror) aimed at destabilizing Egypt's security.

The leader of the party, Ahmad al-Sabbahi, said such acts are committed by outlaws who lost their sense of loyalty to their homeland. He expressed confidence, however, that the security bodies would manage to arrest the perpetrators so that they might be brought to account and have the deterrent punishment.

AL-WAFD Notes 'Coolness' in Sudan Relations
PM171155 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 13 Aug 87 p 1, 4

[Abd al-Nabi 'Abd al-Sattar report: "Sudden Coolness in Egyptian-Sudanese Relations"]

[Text] Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi's visit to Khartoum, scheduled for next October, to sign the brotherhood charter between Egypt and Sudan is expected to be postponed. *Al-Wafd* has learned that the visit has been postponed indefinitely because of Sudan's current domestic situation and the severe crisis in the coalition between the Al-Ummah Party and the Unionist [Democratic] Party regarding a formula for the relationship with Egypt. The Al-Ummah Party under Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi had expressed reservations about the establishment of special relations with Egypt following reports that Egypt, in agreement with the Ethiopian authorities, intends to adhere to neutrality regarding the current war between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the rebel forces under Colonel John Garang. Three months ago, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi announced the abrogation of the joint defense agreement, concluded between Egypt and Sudan in 1978, to protest the Egyptian Government's refusal to extradite former Sudanese President Ja'far al-Numayri to the Sudanese authorities to stand trial for crimes against the Sudanese people. Diplomatic sources also stated that Egyptian-Sudanese relations are currently showing signs of noticeable coolness following the recent Egyptian-Ethiopian rapprochement and visits exchanged between Cairo and Addis Ababa. The sources stressed the difficulties of President Husni Mubarak visiting Sudan at present and expected that the visit will be canceled indefinitely. After last month's clash between Ethiopian and Sudanese forces in the area of Al-Maza on the eastern borders of the two countries [as published] and the Ethiopian forces' penetration inside Sudanese territories, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi is not expected to attend Ethiopian celebrations next September marking the anniversary of the declaration of the republic.

OAU Requested To Work for French Troop Withdrawal
LD180957 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0725 GMT 18 Aug 87

[Text] Tripoli, 18 Aug (JANA) — The secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison yesterday sent the following letter to the OAU secretary general asking him to distribute it among the member states:

Reaffirming the position it already expressed in the letter addressed to you with regard to the aggression perpetrated against its southern border on 7 August, the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya would like the OAU to devote the maximum attention to the issue of the presence of French troops in Chad. Since they constitute a direct threat to the region, we would like the OAU to endeavor to obtain their withdrawal for the following reasons:

1. The justification for which the presence of French troops was founded, now exists only in the form of protection and support for Ndjamena's clique in order to enable it to launch aggression against Libyan territory.

2. (?Habre) stressed the need for French troops under the pretext that he was the victim of Libyan aggression. But because of the support and protection that French troops are giving him, he has now become the aggressor. This confirms the role played by Chad nowadays as a base for aggression against Libya. The danger is far-reaching and affects the entire region, and Libya has drawn attention to this fact more than once.

3. The OAU has always considered the presence of foreign troops an obstacle to the achievement of peace and security in Chad. The presence of French troops not only constitutes an obstacle to peace, but also provides protection and support for Habre, allowing him to devote himself completely to launching aggression against countries in the region. What happened on 18 August 1987 is the best illustration of this point.

The Jamahiriya is asking the OAU chairman to assume his full responsibility in tackling the situation because it directly affects the escalation of tension in the region, and more precisely, because it directly threatens the security of the Jamahiriya, which is a member-state of the organization.

Paper Says Habre 'Aggression' Gives Right To Respond
LD151550 Tripoli JANA in English 1428 GMT 15 Aug 87

[Text] Tripoli, Hannibal [August] 15, *Jamahiriya News Agency* — *Al-Jamahiriya* newspaper published by the revolutionary committees stressed in yesterday's issue that the land of Great Jamahiriya is neither negotiable nor an issue for discussion.

Under the title "Silencing the Source of Aggression," the paper wrote that because of the non-existence of Arab unity, the Arab homeland experiences enormous problems, and is not able to fortify the borders of the Arab homeland by erecting barriers from all sides to repulse the forces of tyranny and despotism — as had been pointed out in one of the leader's lectures.

It went on to say that because Great Jamahiriya carries the torch of new culture to the world, it was the target of imperialism which efforts continued against Great Jamahiriya the most recent of which was the 1986 aggression.

The newspaper went on to assert that what goes on in Chad is aimed at realising the old hostile intentions against Great Jamahiriya, and as was expected it had amounted to an aggression on the southern borders of Great Jamahiriya using their puppets in Chad to launch an aggression on the Libyan Arab Aozou oasis despite the objections from the Organisation of African Unity and African leaders.

Al-Jamahiriya concluded its article by saying: "With our constant reminding that Great Jamahiriya's land is neither negotiable nor an issue for discussion, we reaffirm that we are not warmongers but at the same time we are ready to meet the challenge at any spot the enemies choose. As for the soil of Great Jamahiriya, each grain of sand is preserved by lives and there is no room for bargaining on it".

Then it said that the aggression of renegade Habre and his gang with imperialist support, is an aggression against the Libyan Arab citizen's dignity and "gives us the right to respond to it in the way we see fit to silence the source of aggression against us."

Lebanon's Junblatt Arrives in Tripoli for Visit
LD172243 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2200 GMT 17 Aug 87

[Text] Brother Walid Junblatt, chairman of the Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party, arrived in Tripoli yesterday evening for a visit to the Great Jamahiriya. Brother Junblatt told JANA that his visit to the Great Jamahiriya comes as part of a coordination effort between revolutionary and progressive forces in the Arab homeland to face the imperialist conspiracies aimed at harming the Arab nation's freedom and dignity.

Al-Qadhafi Receives Habash Telegram of Support
LD181001 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0710 GMT 18 Aug 87

[Text] Tripoli, 18 Aug (JANA) — Dr George Habash, PFLP secretary general, stressed his strong denunciation and condemnation of the imperialist aggression on the southern border of the Great Jamahiriya.

In a telegram to the brother leader of the revolution, he said that this imperialist aggression is merely a link in the chain of plots to which the Great Jamahiriya is subjected, with the aim of harming the huge achievements of the great Al-Fateh revolution and of undermining the steadfastness of the Arab Libyan people in confronting the imperialist and colonialist schemes.

He stressed that all cadres and fighters of the PFLP stand by the Arab Libyan people and place all their resources at their disposal until the source of aggression is finally destroyed.

Deputy Assembly Speaker Meets With Soviet Muslims
JN161713 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1450 GMT 16 Aug 87

[ext] Khartoum, 16 Aug (SUNA) — Hasan 'Abd al-Qadir, deputy speaker of the Constituent Assembly, met here today with the visiting delegation of Muslims from the Soviet Union. 'Abd-ahh Muhammad Ahmad, member of the assembly and the National Council for Solidarity, Friendship and Peace attended the meeting. The deputy speaker of the assembly outlined the principles of Sudan's parliamentary and democratic system. He also explained the southern Sudan problem. The two sides discussed Sudanese-Soviet relations and agreed on the need to exchange visits by Islamic delegations.

The delegation representing the Soviet Muslims arrived in the country last Friday. They are visiting at the invitation of the National Council for Solidarity, Friendship, and Peace. The delegation is headed by Makhmud Gekkiyev, the chairman of the Spiritual Administration of Muslims of North Caucasus and Dagestan, and also comprises 'Abdallah Isma'il, deputy chairman of the foreign administration in Uzbek SSR, Sulayman Musa, deputy chairman of spiritual administration of Muslims of Transcaucasus, and Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid Zaythal, Imam of the mosques.

Foreign Minister Calls for Upholding Coalition
JN161118 Khartoum SUNA in English 1005 GMT 16 Aug 87

[Text] Khartoum, Aug 16 (SUNA) — Foreign Minister Muhammad Tawfiq Ahmad has said, the upholding of the current coalition government is in the interest of the country.

Ahmad, a senior member of the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), said in a press statement he issued yesterday that the two parties should uphold the coalition and work together for the attainment of the nation's interests.

He pointed out that the current government crisis could be defused and that the (DUP) politburo and parliamentary group were currently holding a meeting on the issue.

Ahmad added that he and Health Minister Husayn Sulayman Abu Salih were supporting the maintaining of the current coalition government, saying that its dissolution would plunge the country into danger.

National Alliance Demands to Government Reported
JN161154 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1020 GMT 16 Aug 87

[Text] Khartoum, 16 Aug (SUNA) — The National Alliance of Trade Unions is demanding a general appraisal of the political situation. It is also making several demands: foremost, putting an immediate end to the civil war in the south; adopting a political solution in accordance with the Koka Dam resolutions; stopping the economic deterioration and submission to the World Bank terms in accordance with the resolutions of the economic conference; ending the suffering of the masses; cancelling the state of emergency and the September [Shari'a] laws; and adopting the alternative laws drafted by the Lawyers Unions and the National

Alliance. These demands are contained in a memo which the National Alliance of 126 trade unions will submit to the prime minister and ministers, the chairman of the State Council, the president of the Constituent Assembly, and the leaders of political parties. The memo will be signed here tonight at the professors' offices at Khartoum University.

Ishaq al-Qasim Shaddad, secretary of the Sudanese Lawyers Unions, told the newspaper *Al-Siyasah* today that the National Alliance will then discuss the practical steps which must be taken to carry out the demands contained in the memo if the government fails to respond to them.

It is noteworthy that the National Alliance, which was formed in 1985, had played a key role in overthrowing the regime of the deposed Numayri.

Defense Minister Leaves for Southern Kurdufan 15 Aug
JN161145 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1035 GMT 16 Aug 87

[Text] Khartoum, 16 Aug (SUNA) — Retired Major General Fadlallah Burmah Nasir, minister of state for defense, left for Southern Kurdufan yesterday to acquaint himself with the battles that raged there between the Armed Forces and the forces of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA), prepare an analysis of these battles, and convey a comprehensive and clear picture of the situation there to the Council of Ministers.

The prime minister who made this announcement, added that Burmah will also work to reinforce all aspects of the situation there and stage a political campaign to isolate the enemy. It is worth noting that the SPLA has recently announced the transfer of its battle zone to Southern Kurdufan under the leadership of the so-called Yusuf Kuwat [name as received], a leading SPLA figure from the Al-Nubah mountains in Southern Kurdufan.

Armed Forces Chief Affirms Security in South
JN171129 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1025 GMT 17 Aug 87

[Text] Khartoum, 17 August (SUNA) — General 'Abd al-'Azim Siddiq, chief of the People's Armed Forces, has affirmed that security in the southern region is stable, that the People's Armed Forces are in control of the situation, and that citizens are cooperating with them.

This comes following the return from Juba of Gen 'Abd al-'Azim and his accompanying delegation where they made an inspection visit of the Equatoria military region yesterday during which they met with commander and officers of the Equatoria region and talked about the psychological war the mutineers use to try to affect the internal front and the Armed Forces by spreading rumors and lies. He warned against paying any attention to these rumors.

Gen 'Abd al-'Azim also affirmed the People's Armed Forces control of the situation in Southern Kordofan after the mutineers' attempts to destroy crops in the region.

Further Reports on Sousse, Monastir Hotel Bombings

Islamic Jihad Claims Responsibility

NC150727 Beirut Voice of National Resistance
in Arabic 0500 GMT 15 Aug 87

[Text] In a statement to AFP yesterday the Islamic Jihad organization again claimed responsibility for the 2 August attacks on hotels in Tunisia, in which 13 persons were injured.

The statement said that the Habib al-Dawi group of the Islamic Jihad organization in Tunisia declared responsibility for the operation in four hotels on the Tunisian coast.

'Terrorist Gang' Members Arrested

LD180057 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
2200 GMT 17 Aug 87

[Text] The culprits of the explosions that occurred at some hotels in Sousse and Monastir on the evening of 8 August confirmed that they belong to the so-called Islamic Tendency Movement. The members of the terrorist gang, who were quickly arrested, denied the existence of any direct or indirect relations between them and the so-called Islamic Jihad. This was admitted during the confessions broadcast on national television last evening [Monday] within the framework of informing the public about the secret lines of these criminal actions.

Mehrez Bourigga, the member of the gang commissioned to manufacture the four bombs that exploded in the hotels, said that he has been a member of the so-called Islamic Tendency Movement for 1 year, and that he was selected by the leader of the movement in Jammal, his birthplace, while frequenting the mosque. Because of Mehrez Bourigga's experience in the fields of electricity and electronics — he works as a technician at the brick manufacturing plant in Jammal — the leader of the movement in Jammal put him in touch with Fethi Maatoug, who had professional and militant connections with Mohamed Abdelatif Chemli, known to be one of the leading members of the Islamic Tendency Movement and the primary leader of the movement in the Sousse Aktiv, in the movement's jargon; bearing in mind that he is a wanted terrorist whose photograph has been released by the media previously.

Mohamed Chemli had previously placed a car and money at the disposal of Fethi Maatoug, according to the latter's testimony.

Mehrez Bourigga, during an appointment in Sousse, was called on to manufacture five bombs, and to give them to Fethi Maatoug on the eve of Sunday, 2 August, to explode four of them in the aforementioned tourist institutions and to keep the fifth for use at a later time in another terrorist operation. The fifth bomb has actually been found, hidden in the garden of Bourigga's house.

Bourigga pointed out that the instructions he received from the local leader of the terrorist element in Sousse, have obviously stemmed from the militant hierarchy of the Islamic Tendency

within the framework of escalating confrontation against the system and striking at it economically, especially in the field of tourism, after the distribution of leaflets, hostile graffiti, and the organization of demonstrations.

Mehrez Bourigga confessed that he began to manufacture the bombs and explosives about 3 months ago, with the participation of the rest of the members of the gang, who are Adel Amara, Mohamed Ali Cherda, Fethi Ben Naji Jebran, Mondeher Ben Salah Ben Kacem, and Faouzi Ben Rachid Serraj. They carried out tests in the Jammal forest in order to learn the effectiveness of these bombs and explosives. In their turn, they all admitted participation in this operation. One of them, Mondher Ben Salah Ben Kacem, said that he burned the house of a citizen.

Mehrez Bourigga explained the method of manufacturing these time-bombs, their components, and the way to use them. He pointed out that he obtained the necessary equipment after he received a sum of money for this purpose from Fethi Maatoug, with whom he met again at his house on Sunday at about 1530. Fethi Taieb, Maatoug's father, who works as a municipal assistant in charge of exterminating stray dogs, confirmed this confession. He said that on Sunday, 2 August at noon, he heard the telephone ringing, but when he heard nothing he suspected something. He also heard a strange movement on the upper floor of his house, so he was about to go upstairs, but his son stopped him. He stressed that after a short time he actually saw Mehrez Bourigga leaving the house, accompanied by his son, Fethi Maatoug. The two then rode off on a motorcycle. The father offhandedly said that he was used to leaving gunpowder and other equipment used for hunting in one of the house's windows without checking their quantities.

In organizing and planning these terrorist operations, Mehrez Bourigga confirmed that since his selection in one of Jammal's mosques, he continued to practice militant activities secretly, as the supervisor of the Islamic Tendency Movement in the region was, most of the time and according to previously arranged dates, meeting every member of the group alone, in order to give them instructions and directives of an ideological and political character.

Bourigga also pointed out that all these arrangements required that no member of the terrorist group attempt to discover the identity of the contact member. He pointed out that he asked him, concerning his meetings with Fethi Maatoug in Sousse, to restrict himself to carrying out the instructions without attempting to know the name of the person talking to him.

These confessions and statements, which were broadcast on television yesterday, were supported with a picture of the damage inflicted on the tourist institutions, with detailed scenes of the various equipment used for manufacturing the explosives, the remains of the time-bombs which were exploded, and the remains of the bombs tested before carrying out these terrorist operations. This equipment was taken by the national security authorities when they arrested the members of the gang.

KUWAIT

Security Council Urged To Implement Resolution 598
LD161503 Kuwait KUNA in English 1403 GMT 16 Aug 87

[Text] Kuwait, Aug 16 (KUNA) — Kuwait today urged the five permanent powers of the U.N. Security Council to intensify their efforts to implement Council Resolution 598 which had called for a stop to the Iran-Iraq war.

Acting state minister for cabinet affairs, Dr. 'Abd al-Rahman al-'Awadi told reporters following a weekly cabinet meeting today that the Council of Ministers reviewed the current escalation in the Arabian Gulf and underlined the need for the Security Council to take practical steps to translate its Resolution 598 into reality.

Kuwait, the spokesman added, believes the Security Council should live up to its responsibilities so as to protect the safety and security of the Gulf region.

He said Kuwait highly appreciates the current international technical cooperation to maintain safety of navigation in the Gulf's waterways.

Dr. al-'Awadi added that the Council of Ministers reviewed current developments on the regional, Arab and international levels, particularly contacts to bring about a peaceful resolution of the Iran-Iraq war.

Foreign Minister To Attend Arab League Meeting
LD171325 Kuwait KUNA in English 1209 GMT 17 Aug 87

[Text] Kuwait, Aug 17 (KUNA) — The Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad Monday announced here that he will personally participate in the emergency meeting of the Arab League ministerial council. Speaking to reporters today, Shaykh Sabah affirmed that the meeting will be held at the League's premises in Tunis next Sunday [23 August]. He expressed hope that the meeting, which will be held at foreign ministers' level, would reach resolutions that could achieve pan Arab interests and enhance Arab solidarity.

The meeting was called for by Tunisia to curb spillover of the Gulf conflict and in light of the recent hotel explosions in two Tunisian cities.

Shaykh Sabah, in the meantime, received Somali Deputy Premier and Interior Minister Brigadier Ahmad Salman, currently on a private visit to Kuwait.

AL-SIYASAH Interviews Prime Minister on Gulf War
JN161555 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic
15 Aug 87 pp 1, 21

["Text" of interview with Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, prime minister and heir apparent, by *Al-Siyasah* and its sister newspaper the *Arab Times*; date and place not given]

[Text] Question: Heir Apparent and Prime Minister, there are some people who believe that the Gulf war has ended and that this conflict is now in its death throes. Do you believe this thinking is correct or that the war is still continuing and gaining momentum?

Answer: Yes, there are several political analyses that state this war is on the verge of concluding and that the current tension is its death throes. In fact, there are indications in this connection. We hope that this war is nearing its conclusion, for there is an end to everything. This depends upon measures that the UN Security Council will take and upon Iran's response to Resolution No 598. In my opinion, the Security Council resolution cannot tolerate any division. If the Security Council is to implement its resolution and all parties concerned respond to it, then the war will end. The UN resolution calls for an end to this conflict, for the warring parties' return to international borders, and for an exchange of prisoners. The resolution also stipulates that the party rejecting this resolution will be punished; i.e., the resolution has been adopted to be implemented; it is a compulsory resolution. If it is implemented in accordance with joint international opinion, then the notion that this war has ended and that it is in its death throes is compatible with the logical analysis.

Question: Your Highness Prime Minister, Kuwait was one of the countries that believed in the possibility of some agreement being reached with Iran peacefully. Where does this belief stand now following all the developments we all have observed? Has it failed? Has it dissipated?

Answer: Kuwait believed that something could be achieved through it and some other countries that believe in peace and the need for restoring amity between Iraq and Iran. However, until the convocation of Islamic summit conference, it was apparent that we had failed to dissuade Iran from pursuing the military aspect. Naturally, this is regrettable, because it will have negative consequences, and not only for the Iranian side. The whole region has suffered so greatly from this painful war. However, if we are given the opportunity, we will be prepared to resume our diplomatic activity unconditionally should Iran really desire peace. As I have stated, we are awaiting results of the appraisal of Iran's response to the UN Security Council resolution, and especially the international appraisal and the world's view of this conflict. The damage of this war is no longer confined to the Gulf and to the Arabian Peninsula region but has expanded to all world civilian centers.

Question: Heir Apparent and Prime Minister, how do you view the Iranian media campaign regarding individuals in the political regimes of the Peninsula and the Gulf, including the war of leaflets? Do you think this is an effective campaign?

Answer: This does not worry us; they are using it in Iran for

purposes of domestic consumption. Our people here understand the nature of their political regimes. The official or personal positions and actions of individuals in these regimes are clear. Obviously, they are not as the Iranian media state they are. We are not killers or criminals. The assassins are known to the international arena and the world. We do not pursue innocent citizens of our country and kill them. Such propaganda may backfire negatively on those who practice it. In the end, the truth will impose itself, and anything other than this will be useless.

Question: Heir Apparent and Prime Minister, have the superpowers' fleets come to stay or are they on a temporary visit that will end once this conflict ends?

Answer: The fleets of the superpowers were present in the region's international waters before the tension increased. This presence varies between the Gulf of Oman, the Gulf, and other international seas; the fleets approach each other or remain further away from each other according to these states' strategies and interests. Therefore, this presence is an old one that began with these fleets' friendly visits to several countries' ports and ended with the imposed presence stipulated by the present needs. Naturally, this presence is now tight as called for by circumstances of the Iraq-Iran war and the ensuing tension in the Gulf region and the peninsula. This is due to consequences of the conflict including the threat to international navigation. This intensified presence, in my view, is a temporary one and is related to the growing tension in the region.

Question: Your Highness the Heir Apparent and Prime Minister, do you believe that cooperation among the GCC member states has reached a satisfactory level given the current regional tension?

Answer: Cooperation among these countries in many fields is good, although there is room for improvement. We now cooperate in the military, security, and other fields that are important in the current stage. But naturally, we aspire to increase this cooperation's effectiveness, particularly under the current conditions. Any aggression against any GCC member state would comprise an attack against all GCC member states. Any belief that such an aggression would separate or distinguish between one country and another is extremely harmful not only to the GCC member states but also to the entire region and the Arab nation as a whole. Woe unto us if we were to think that an aggression against any one of our countries would not constitute an attack against us all.

Question: Your Highness, what do the recent events in Mecca signify to you, and what are their consequences and the extent of these consequences?

Answer: I hope that the current investigations of these regrettable incidents do not reveal that what has occurred is much more than a march, but leads to all the consequences that have taken place. However, it seems that what has occurred had other dimensions. When the news agencies and various quarters speak of the presence of 20,000 trained Pasadaran [Guards Corps] planted among the Iranian pilgrims in order to achieve something, the size of this number, no matter how precise, implies a specific meaning, carries special objectives, and constitutes a

dangerous phenomenon verging on interference in the internal affairs of a country bent on providing all possible safety and security for pilgrims in the holy places. In my view, what has occurred goes beyond being a mere march to something else that could have disrupted the pilgrimage rites and undermined security — and so it should not have occurred. The fraternal Saudi Arabian Kingdom has acted with its renowned wisdom.

Question: Heir Apparent and Prime Minister, some people claim that Iran might resort to what is referred to as a "strike of desperation." Does such an expectation fall within your calculations?

Answer: Yes, everything is possible, and we consider every probability. If any desperate acts occur, they will escalate tension in the region and will have a negative effect on the region and the world, both economically and politically. The consequences of these acts will inevitably backfire on those who perpetrate them.

Question: Heir Apparent and Prime Minister, regarding the security situation in Kuwait, is it now favorably stable compared to what it was previously?

Answer: I cannot specify a time period in order to state that security is better now or used to be worse in the past; security was not slack in the past and will not be in the future, but it is tighter now. I would like to stress that security during these times cannot be effective without the people's cooperation. This is because, logically, the citizen is required to cooperate concerning national security and report any suspicious movements he observes to the appropriate authorities. Security in this way will be tightened and consolidated, obviously, by the firmness currently implemented. This firmness is called for by the present circumstances. Its continuation serves the nation's security and the citizens' safety. Obviously, our security is marred only by scattered incidents known to everyone. These matters are contained by the vigilance of the appropriate security units and other appropriate quarters, and the cooperation of citizens, who are requested to report at all times any suspicious act or on any person wanted by the appropriate security authorities.

Question: Your Highness, what about the economic situation?

Answer: We can state, based on the testimony of international financial institutions, that the Kuwaiti economy has passed the stage of hard times and has now begun to regain its dynamism. Fluidity is now available. All that was needed was the element of confidence that prevailed following rectification of the course. We as a government have not pumped enough funds in the volume that planted this confidence and restored the movement of the prices of economic assets in a constant and moderate manner. [sentence as published]

Although the economy had to face the dictates of world conditions in addition to conditions of its own condition — the drop in the price of oil and tension in the Gulf region resulting from the Iraq-Iran war — it has, nevertheless, passed the critical stage and was progressing by logical economic degrees. All this points to the fact that indicators have been on the increase in our national economy. This includes the settlement program between banks and debtors, which the Central Bank's governor told me is

proceeding well and has overcome all difficulties. This is particularly true since this is a flexible program that is being implemented on the basis of its philosophy and not only on the basis of its provisions.

SAUDI ARABIA

Attache Dies of Injuries Sustained in Tehran

LD172203 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2145 GMT 17 Aug 87

[Text] Jeddah, 17 Aug (SPA) — A responsible source at the Foreign Ministry stated that Mr Musay'id al-Ghamidi, attache at the Embassy of the custodian of the two holy mosques in Tehran, died this evening of injuries suffered during the criminal aggression against him, at the hands of the demagogue elements in Tehran, and as a result of the inhuman treatment he was subjected to.

The source added that the Iranian side's procrastination and delay had prevented Al-Ghamidi's transfer to the Kingdom on board a private medical aircraft to be treated in Saudi hospitals.

The source ended its statement by stating that the Iranian authorities' attitude toward this incident reflected the inhuman side of their behavior and confirmed their contradiction of deep-rooted and tolerant Islamic principles and values.

Charge Says Iran To 'Return' Embassy Premises

NC161414 Paris AFP in English 1405 GMT 16 Aug 87

[Excerpts] Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, Aug 16 (AFP) — The blockade around the Saudi Embassy in Tehran, ransacked by demonstrators on August 1, will be lifted in the next few days, a Saudi diplomat said in a statement published Sunday [16 August] by two daily newspapers here.

Saudi Charge d'Affaires in Tehran, Marwan Bashir al-Rumi, told the *Arab News* and *Al-Sharq al-Awsat*, that the Iranian Foreign Ministry had agreed to return the embassy premises to Saudi diplomats after they are vacated by Iranians who have been occupying them since the August 1 demonstration. [passage omitted]

Mr. al-Rumi said that the families of Saudi diplomats who have been unable to leave Tehran since the embassy attack would be allowed to leave in a few days.

He ruled out the possibility of a break in diplomatic relations between the two countries.

The Kingdom (of Saudi Arabia) is a peace-loving country and wishes to cooperate with its neighbours in the Gulf," Mr. al-Rumi said, adding that he hoped that normal relations would soon be restored between the two countries.

Iranian Pilgrim Official Ordered To Leave Country

LD171206 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 17 Aug 87

[Text] The Saudi regime has asked the imam's representative and supervisor of the Iranian pilgrims to leave Saudi Arabia by tomorrow.

A correspondent of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Saudi Arabia has sent the following report:

Following the Saudi regime's maltreatment of Iranian pilgrims and the arrival in Jeddah of Hojjat ol-Ealam Mehdi Karrubi, the imam's representative and supervisor of Iranian pilgrims, last night, the Saudi Government contacted the Iranian Consulate-General in Jeddah and asked the imam's representative and supervisor of Iranian pilgrims to leave Saudi territory by tomorrow at the latest.

Meanwhile, Mr Karrubi last night visited Jeddah airport and inspected the caravans and the headquarters for transferring pilgrims at the airport. He spoke to Iranian pilgrims and thanked the officials responsible for the pilgrims' transfer for their efforts and services.

The Iranian Consulate-General in Jeddah, where the imam's representative and supervisor of Iranian pilgrims was staying, was last night besieged by Saudi forces. People are additionally being prevented from entering it. Since last night, all persons intending to enter the consulate have been arrested. Even the consulate's staff are permitted to enter the diplomatic mission only following a full inspection.

Iranian Allegations Denied

LD172231 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2140 GMT 17 Aug 87

[Text] Jeddah, 17 Aug (SPA) — A responsible source made the following statement to SPA: As it usually does in fabricating lies, IRNA today alleged that Saudi authorities had arrested the supervisor of Iranian pilgrims, [Hoseyn] Rezi'e, after surrounding the Iranian pilgrims' headquarters with 3,000 Saudi troops, and that they had also arrested a number of Iranian officials and sent them back to Tehran. It also claimed that Saudi authorities had asked Karrubi to leave Saudi Arabia.

The source further stated: The return of Rezi'e, Karrubi, and other Iranian officials to Tehran is taking place in accordance with the program planned for returning pilgrims, including Iranian pilgrims, to their countries, after performing the rites of pilgrimage and concluding their rites. The Saudi authorities have arrested none of these Iranians and have not surrounded any facility of theirs. Everything reported by IRNA in this respect is false.

Council of Ministers Views Mecca Security Report

LD172036 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1805 GMT 17 Aug 87

[Excerpts] Jeddah, 17 Aug (SPA) — King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, chaired the

session held by the Council of Ministers this afternoon, Monday, 17 August 1987, at Al-Salam Palace in Jeddah.

Following the session, 'Ali al-Sha'ir, his excellency the minister of information, made the following statement to SPA: At the start of this session, and at the gracious recommendation of his majesty the king, the Council reviewed all the final reports issued by their highnesses and excellencies the ministers concerned with services to the pilgrims. They also reviewed reports that indicated the achievement of the extremely high rate of success of this year's pilgrimage according to the general plan of the various administrative, security, health, and information services. [passage omitted]

Minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir also stated: Following this, the Council addressed the security report concerning the recent details of the mob and acts of sabotage that were planned by the Tehran regime's leaders and that were carried out by the Iranian revolution guards on Friday 31 July 1987 around the holy mosque during the most honored and sanctified days.

In the light of the security report's contents, it was confirmed to the Council of Ministers that the Tehran rulers, with this horrible crime, aimed at achieving many goals, including stirring up sedition, terror, and anxiety among the pilgrims and obstructing their performance of this rite; and attempting to enter the holy mosque and obstructing worship there for political reasons, which they say would strengthen the march of the Iranian revolution, as was stated by their Imam Khomeini himself. However, God's right manifested itself. God was awake to their acts and foiled their plans. He made their perfidy boomerang on them and turned them against themselves, as some of them fell under the feet of others in the ugliest picture of chaos, and made them taste the bitterness of disgrace and shame in the world. They will endure great suffering in the afterlife.

The information minister went on to say that the Council also reviewed the Islamic and international reaction to the Iranian crime in holy Mecca. Tens of thousands of telephone calls, cables, and messages have poured into the custodian of the two holy mosques and his honest crown prince after being sent by kings, presidents, heads of governments, and of Islamic institutions and organizations. All of these messages denounced, deplored, and condemned the Iranian crime. These messages at the same time also fully supported the immediate measures taken by the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to foil the scheme perpetrated by the Tehran leaders and to prevent the Iranian demonstrators from heading toward the Grand Mosque's interior. The Council has regarded this Islamic reaction, which rocked the corners of the Islamic and Arab world, as a great Islamic angry outburst to support right as stated by the Koran, and to defeat falsehood as perpetrated by the oppressive clique ruling in Tehran.

The Council has also approved a policy of refraining from replying to the campaigns of falsification and fabrication carried out by the Iranian information media, and to confine the Kingdom's reply to honest and balanced words that convey to the world the bare facts supported by evidence and proof.

The information minister then continued that the Council of

Ministers adopted some important decisions in view of the probable situation with absolute firmness in all cases and circumstances. The information minister added that the Council then studied topics on the agenda and issued a number of decisions regarding them. [passage omitted]

Assassination One of Iran's 'Tools of Terrorism' *LD170857 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0310 GMT 17 Aug 87*

[Text] Riyadh, 17 Aug — Under the headline, "Iranian Terrorism and the Saudi Citizen," the newspaper *Al-Nadwah* wrote: Assassination is one of the tools of terrorism Iran's authorities resort to in order to intimidate human societies and to induce fear in them.

The newspaper adds: Having realized that they cannot carry out acts of terrorism or detract from the state's sovereignty in this secure country — thanks to the firm and decisive stand taken by this secure country's rulers — the Iranian authorities might turn toward Saudi citizens abroad to inflict harm on them, whatever such harm might be. But the Iranian authorities seem to forget that we are people with standards, and that every citizen in this country is prepared to endure all sorts of harm in defense of his religion, king, and homeland. Any threat posed by the Iranians will be met with defiance from a position of strength and national responsibility.

The newspaper points out that there is nothing to prevent Iranians' sinister intentions and their practice of terrorism in all the Arab Islamic and international spheres. The Iranian authorities no longer attach any importance to the teachings of religion, or to its ethical disciplines. Now that the black mask that concealed their intentions has fallen, the whole world realizes they have used religion as a slogan to justify their acts of terrorism and their determination to continue with aggression against those around them. The world additionally realizes that blood has become the food that nourishes their sinister whims.

Official Denies Reports of Arrears to Syria *LD161151 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1120 GMT 16 Aug 87*

[Text] Jeddah, 16 Aug — In replying to AFP reports citing its correspondent in Damascus to the effect that there are some arrears that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia still must pay to Syria in accordance with the Baghdad summit resolutions, an official of the Saudi Ministry of Finance and National Economy told SPA that the Kingdom has settled all its dues — dues that arose from the Baghdad summit conference resolutions — to a number of fraternal Arab countries and the PLO up to the last installment due, which was paid to fraternal Syria 10 days ago.

The official noted that, as everyone knows, the Arab countries affected by the Baghdad summit conference resolutions have more than once stated that Saudi Arabia was among the first to fulfill its commitments on schedule.

The official added: We hope our clarification will repudiate AFP's allegations, allegations that it should have verified before publishing them in order to retain the respect of its readers.

Regrettably, AFP has recently disseminated many spurious reports from sources that fabricate news, and thus AFP is about to lose its famed credibility in the eyes of the public.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Envoys To Brief Saddam Husayn on Al-Asad Talks
JN170654 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic
0630 GMT 17 Aug 87

[Text] Damascus — WAM has learned that the intensive talks His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the UAE, held with His Excellency Hafiz al-Asad, president of the Syrian Arab Republic, over the past 2 days has resulted in the two presidents' agreement to dispatch His Excellency Ahmad Khalifah al-Suwaydi, representative of the UAE president, and His Excellency Rashid 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, to Baghdad today. They will brief Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and confer with Iraqi officials on the results of the UAE and Syrian presidents' talks in Damascus and on the UAE president's continuous efforts to clear the atmosphere between Syria and Iraq, within the framework of bolstering some brother's efforts for the sake of attaining upcoming effective Arab solidarity.

Security Source States East Coast Clear of Mines
JN180916 Doha QNA in Arabic 0715 GMT 18 Aug 87

[Text] Al-Fujayrah, 18 Aug (QNA) — A responsible security source in the Emirate of Al-Fujayrah has asserted that the

situation is now calm on the UAE's east coast after the Armed Forces, Coast Guard, and helicopters managed to clear all waterways. The source added that no new mines were found.

In a statement today, the source affirmed that a maximum state of alert will continue to be maintained among the ranks of naval, ground, and air patrols on a 24-hour basis to prevent new mines from being planted. He also emphasized that the Armed Forces have been surveying the state's territorial waters off the east coast and since the morning, and that surveying operations extend to a distance of 5 nautical miles.

The source added that the Armed Forces will continue their operations during the coming days to ascertain once and for all the nonexistence of mines or any other obstructions that might hinder navigation through waterways off the east coast. He indicated that local authorities have not received any new information from tankers anchored north of Al-Fujayrah Port or from area fishermen on the presence of mines in territorial or international waters north of the Gulf of Oman.

On another level, sources at Al-Fujayrah Port stated that the oil slick from the U.S. oil tanker *Texaco* is still more than 12 nautical miles away from the port. The sources added that the oil slick is being constantly monitored to ensure that it is permanently kept away from the area, a matter that basically depends on wind direction.

The sources also noted that the search for the five persons missing in the mine explosion incident involving the supply ship *Anita* have continued for the 4th consecutive day.

Minister 'Aziz Message to UN's Perez de Cuellar
JN181000 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0745 GMT 18 Aug 87

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Aug (INA) — Iraq has called on the United Nations to take the necessary measures to implement UN Security Council Resolution No 598 in accordance with the UN Charter and to force the Iranian regime to end its aggressive war and the shelling of Iraqi residential areas. This was contained in a message today from Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Tariq 'Aziz urged the UN Security Council to apply Chapter 7 of the UN Charter to the Iranian regime for its rejection of the binding UN Security Council Resolution No 598 issued on 20 July 1987. 'Aziz pointed out that the Iranian regime has continued its armed aggression against Iraq and the bordering residential areas despite the resolution calling for an end to the Iraq-Iran conflict.

Tariq 'Aziz also sent a message to Javier Perez de Cuellar on 10 August in which he urged De Cuellar and the UN Security Council to assume their responsibilities toward implementing the aforementioned resolution.

The following is the text of the message Tariq 'Aziz sent to the UN secretary general today:

His Excellency Javier Perez de Cuellar, secretary general of the United Nations, New York

Further to my letter dated 10 August 1987, Document No 19027/S, I am honored to inform you that since that day Iran has continued to carry out the following armed aggressions against Iraq:

On 7 August, an armed aggression against the east Halabjah area.

On 8 August, an armed aggression against Qal'at Dizah.

On 10 August, an armed aggression against Al-'Amiq Port.

On 12 August, two armed aggressions against Al-'Amiq Port and an armed aggression against Qal'at Dizah.

On 15 August, an armed aggression against Qal'at Dizah.

In addition to the above armed aggressions, the Iranian forces shelled the following purely residential areas during the same period:

On 7 August, Basra city — a number of houses were damaged.

On 9 August, Basra city — a number of houses were damaged.

On 9 August, (Bimalik) housing complex in Qal'at Dizah — three persons died, including one woman, and five were injured, including one woman and three children.

On 11 August, Basra city — four civilians were injured and a civilian car was damaged.

On 11 August, Qal'at Dizah — a number of houses were damaged.

On 13 August, (Bimalik) housing complex in Qal'at Dizah — one civilian was injured.

On 15 August, Qal'at Dizah — a number of houses were damaged.

On 15 August, Al-'Uzayr — a number of houses were damaged.

The number of Iranian aggressions against Iraq since UN Security Council Resolution No 598 was issued is thus as mentioned above.

In this regard, I would like to explain the following points:

1. UN Security Council Resolution No 598 for 1987 is a binding resolution. Its binding nature requires that those who are addressed by its provisions respond to it without any preconditions, and that the UN Security Council members implement this resolution as an indivisible whole, in letter and in spirit, and reject any selective treatment of its clauses. Needless to say, any other manner of handling it would strip this resolution of its binding nature on its parties, the UN Security Council, and the other UN members.

2. The Iranian reply delivered to you on 11 August 1987 is a rejection of the aforementioned resolution and its binding nature; any other deduction will not be based on a legal basis since the Iranian reply demonstrates a rejection of the resolution in more than one area. Moreover, the Iranian reply constitutes selective treatment of the resolution's clauses. This is a clear repetition of the way Iran handled the conflict prior to the resolution's issuance. This Iranian course of seeking the war's continuation was rejected by the UN Security Council and the international community, which insisted on a comprehensive method of managing the conflict and on a comprehensive settlement.

3. Iraq finds it strange to observe some deliberations taking place in the UN lobbies repeating ideas concerning the partitioning of the conflict or lauding attempts seeking to partition the resolution's implementation. It is also very strange to observe attempts being made during these said deliberations to peddle and promote the precedent that a state "neither accepts nor rejects" a binding UN Security Council resolution, in violation of all legal bases, since this constitutes a dangerous precedent at the United Nations.

We would like to inform you that Iraq categorically rejects this course and method, and that we consider this course and method as something that not only goes against the resolution's legally binding nature, but also against the resolution's spirit and letter as well as against the international community's will.

4. Attempts currently underway to confer false descriptions on the Iranian stand, which rejects the resolution — attempts that possess no legal or logical bases whatsoever — in fact encourage

the Iranian regime to persist in its stubbornness and determination to continue the war and aggression and to further disseminate terrorism and sabotage in the region. The acts of sabotage perpetrated by the Iranian regime in Mecca 11 days after the UN Security Council resolution's issuance, and Iran's planting of mines in the Gulf region serve as very strong evidence corroborating our point. Those who cover up for the Iranian stand and advance justifications and excuses for this stand are not serving the cause of peace, but instead actually encourage the aggressor to persist with its aggression, emboldening the regime that does not heed international law and international rules of conduct and that shows no respect for international organizations. Those parties are actually encouraging the Iranian regime to persist with this policy that has brought calamities to the region and whose effects have also reached other areas of the world.

Seven years of Iranian aggression against Iraq and the catastrophes resulting from this aggression are enough; nay, more than enough. This aggression should lead to the abandonment of these policies which have not led to positive results. Furthermore, the grave dangers the region is experiencing should prompt those [parties] to abandon the futile attempts that were tried several times in the past, to no avail.

The Iranian regime publicly disowns and disavows these analyses and excuses promoted on its behalf by some quarters. However, it persists with its hostile and aggressive program, and considers war to be its principal program. The appendix attached to this message — including the last paragraph of the latest speech by Khamene'i, Iran's president and chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, delivered on Friday, 14 August, 25 days after the UN Security Council resolution's issuance — serves as undeniable evidence corroborating what we have just stated.

5. We once again reiterate our call for showing no hesitation in imposing the provisions provided for in Chapter 2 of the UN Charter against the Iranian regime for its rejection of the binding UN Security Council Resolution No 598/1987, issued on 20 July; for its insistence on continuing the war and aggression and persisting with disseminating acts of regional sabotage, anarchy, and instability; for its disgraceful stand toward the UN Security Council; and for challenging the will of the international community.

[Signed] Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Appendix No 1. [subhead]

Iran's armed aggressions against Iraq and the shelling of purely civilian residential areas in Iraq since Security Council Resolution No 598/1987's issuance on 20 July 1987 are as follows:

On 20 July — two armed attacks on the southern Majnun oil field and one armed attack on the Iraqi coast in Hawr al-Hawizah.

On 21 July — an armed attack by three groups on the southern Majnun field.

On 22 July — an armed attack on the Iraqi Al-'Amiq Port.

On 26 July — an armed attack on the Iraqi Al-'Amiq Port.

On 3 August — an armed attack on the Iraqi al-'Amiq Port.

On 4 August — an armed attack on the Iraqi Al-'Amiq Port.

On 5 August — an armed attack on the Qal'at Dizah area.

On 6 August — an armed attack on the Qal'at Dizah area.

On 7 August — an armed attack on the Chuwartah area.

On 7 August — an armed attack on the southern Majnun oil field.

On 7 August — an armed attack on the eastern Halabjah area.

On 8 August — an armed attack on the Qal'at Dizah area.

On 10 August — an armed attack on the Al-'Amiq Port.

On 12 August — two armed attacks on the Al-'Amiq Port and an armed attack on the Qal'at Dizah area.

On 14 August — an armed attack on the Al-'Amiq Port.

On 15 August — an armed attack on the Qal'at Dizah area.

Shelling of Residential Areas [subhead]

20 July 1987, Basra — one injured.

23 July 1987, Basra — one injured.

23 July 1987, (Bimalak) housing complex in Qal'at Dizah — seven injured, including three women; houses damaged.

24 July 1987, Basra — houses damaged.

27 July 1987, Qalat Dizah — seven martyred and five injured.

27 July 1987, Qazaniyah — two injured and houses damaged.

29 July 1987, Basra.

29 July 1987, Basra at night.

31 July 1987, Khawr al-Zubayr.

1 August 1987, (Bimalik) housing complex in Qal'at Dizah — one martyred, nine injured, and houses damaged.

3 August 1987, Basra — houses damaged.

5 August 1987, Qal'at Dizah — two injured and houses damaged.

7 August 1987, Basra.

7 August 1987, Basra — houses and property damaged.

9 August 1987, Basra — houses and property damaged.

9 August 1987, (Bimalik) housing complex in Qal'at Dizah — three martyred, including a woman, and five injured, including a woman and three children.

11 August 1987, Basra — four civilians injured and a civilian car damaged.

11 August 1987, Qal'at Dizah — houses and property damaged.

13 August 1987, (Bimalik) housing complex in Qal'at Dizah — one civilian injured.

15 August 1987, Qal'at Dizah — some houses and property damaged.

15 August 1987, Al-'Uzayr — some houses and property damaged.

In the appendix to his letter, Tariq 'Aziz referred to Iranian President Khamene'i's speech in which Khamene'i emphasized Iran's insistence on continuing its war against Iraq and its aggression against Iraq's military and civilian facilities. In his speech on 14 August, Khamene'i instigated the Iranians to continue heading for the battlefronts and stated that war is the Iranians' most important basic task.

UAE President's Envoys Arrive in Baghdad 17 Aug
JN171056 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1038 GMT 17 Aug 87

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Aug (INA) — Ahmad Khalifah al-Suwaydi, personal representative of Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the UAE, and Rashid 'Abdallah, UAE minister of state for foreign affairs, arrived in Baghdad today.

They were welcomed by Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and a number of senior Foreign Ministry officials.

Received by Saddam Husayn
JN171711 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
1600 GMT 17 Aug 87

[Text] President Saddam Husayn has received Ahmad Khalifah al-Suwaydi, personal representative of Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the UAE, and Rashid 'Abdallah, UAE minister of state for foreign affairs. During the meeting, they discussed the fraternal relations between the two sisterly countries.

Attending the meeting were Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; the president's secretary; and the UAE ambassador to Baghdad.

Further Reportage on Gulf War Operations

Communique No 2,780 Issued
JN161647 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
1600 GMT 16 Aug 87

[Communique No 2,780 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 16 August]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our valiant Armed Forces are continuing to improve their capabilities and carry out their holy duty to defend Iraq's honor and territory and the nation's dignity and values. Our valiant Armed Forces have inflicted further losses on the aggressors with the following combat operations for last night and today:

1. Our Air Force aircraft conducted 97 combat mission today. During these missions, they carried out their specific tasks in striking at the enemy's vital installations, concentrations of personnel, weapons, and equipment positions. After carrying out their duties, our aircraft returned safely to base, praise be to God.
2. The cavaliers of the helicopter gunships carried out 30 combat sorties. During their mission, they destroyed a number of enemy positions and weapons, while annihilating a number of enemy personnel concentrations. They then returned safely to base, praise be to God.
3. Our units in the I Army Corps northern sector delivered effective blows against the enemy units located opposite themselves. Using artillery and mortars, they killed two scoundrels, burned and destroyed one tank and two vehicles, and detonated one ammunition dump.
4. Two enemy soldiers were killed, one observation post and one medium machinegun were destroyed, and two ammunition dumps were detonated in the VII Army Corps sector.
5. Two shovels [preceding word in English] and one 81-mm mortar were burned and destroyed and one ammunition dump was detonated in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris.
6. Three enemy vehicles were burned and one light machinegun was destroyed in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.
7. Using long-range artillery, the tyrannical Khomeyniite clique shelled purely residential areas in the city of Al-'Uzayr and the village of Biyarah and Qazaniyah. The enemy shelling damaged a number of house and civilian property.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 16 August 1987

Attacks on Civilians Denied
JN170930 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0852 GMT 17 Aug 87

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Aug (INA) — An Iraqi military spokesman has denied Iran's claims that the Iraqi Air Force bombed purely residential areas in southern and western Iran.

The spokesman told INA a short while ago that these claims are

completely false, stating: As we had earlier announced, Iraqi Air Force activity yesterday only struck at oil fields and installations and attacked military targets in the operational theaters.

The spokesman added that there is no doubt that these targets are purely military and not residential areas.

The Iraqi military spokesman explained that the Iranian regime's claims are aimed at finding a feeble excuse for its indiscriminate and continuous shelling of purely residential Iraqi areas, even following the issuance of the UN Security Council resolution on 20 July. The shelling resulted in a number of innocent civilians, including women and children, being killed and wounded.

The latest crime was committed yesterday when the Iranian regime shelled the city of Basra from 1930 to 2200 [1530 to 1800 GMT] with 42 large-caliber shells, killing three civilians, injuring five others, and damaging civilian houses and property.

In conclusion, the spokesman stated: In view of a situation such as this, we must assert our indisputable right to protect our citizens and their property.

Communique No 2,781 Issued

JN171636 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
155 GMT 17 Aug 87

[Communique No 2,781 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 17 August]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. We thank you, God, for granting us victory. You are the greatest one to grant victories. O sons of our great people: Your heroic Air Force continues to be the sword that is always unsheathed in the face of the impudent criminals. These criminals covet our land, insist on waging war against us, and call for sedition and havoc.

The will of our great people is directed at depriving the Iranian regime of all means and resources that help it to continue its aggression. Pursuant to this will, large numbers of our aircraft penetrated deep inside Iran this afternoon, accomplishing the following heroic missions:

1. At 1455 [1055 GMT], a number of our aircraft dealt a destructive blow to oil installations in Ahvaz oil field No 1. Our wild hawks left explosions and columns of fire and smoke billowing from the selected targets in their wake.
2. At 1715 today, a number of our aircraft launched a devastating raid against the Dezful sugar production plant, reducing their targets to rubble.
3. At 1717, a number of our aircraft dealt a violent blow to the Shushtar sugar production plant, completely destroying their targets. After courageously and accurately accomplishing these tasks, our genuine hawks and their aircraft then safely and triumphantly returned home.

O zealous citizens! These successive and punishing blows dealt by our heroic Air Force to economic installations closely con-

nected with the war effort, and the blows dealt by our victorious forces to the remnant forces of aggression, are your response. O heroic Iraqis, they are your response to the Iranian rulers' unethical stand toward the international community's resolution on the need to establish peace.

The heroism and perseverance of the men of our Air Force and of all the brave fighters are a part of your courage and rising determination, following 7 years of a holy war under the banner of your great leader.

O sons of Iraq, you have shown the world what struggle for the homeland, dignity, honor, and the defense of progress and peace is about. We shall continue to exact retribution upon the enemies of God and mankind. We shall do so until right prevails and falsehood is vanquished and the enemies acquiesce to the blessing of peace.

Glory to you, O men of our Air Force — commanders, pilots, officers, and men. You have lived up to our expectations. May God support us against the unjust.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command 17 August 1987

Communique No 2,782 Issued

JN171656 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1600 GMT 17 Aug 87

[Communique No 2,782 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 17 August]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With further courage and bravery, our triumphant Armed Forces continue their combat activities in defense of Iraq and its people. They do so also for the sake of regional peace and security. A roundup of these activities for last night and today follows:

1. Our heroic Air Force continued its courageous activities today, carrying out 90 combat missions. The Air Force accomplished its set tasks by striking at vital enemy installations and raiding enemy troop concentrations and weapons and equipment positions. After carrying out these duties, our aircraft returned safely to base, in God's care and protection.
2. To inflict further destruction on the ignorant enemy, our bold helicopter gunships today carried out 92 combat missions, killing enemy personnel and destroying enemy equipment and weapons. Our helicopter gunships then returned safely to base, praise be to God.
3. In the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah, three scoundrels were killed, two infantry positions and an enemy shovel [preceding word in English] were destroyed, and three ammunition dumps were detonated.
4. An enemy soldier was killed; three infantry positions and two large vehicles, one of which was carrying personnel, and an enemy gun were destroyed in the I Army Corps northern sector.
5. Four enemy personnel were killed and four infantry positions

and two large vehicles were destroyed in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris.

6. Two infantry positions were destroyed in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan.

7. Two enemy observation posts were destroyed in the II Army Corps central sector.

8. The brave Al-'Amiq Port force spotted two enemy boats attempting to approach the port. The force then confronted the boats, forcing them to flee.

9. To rid themselves of the terrorism of the ruling clique in Tehran, a number of Iranian civilians sought refuge with our forward units. They were then safely evacuated to the rearlines.

10. The Iranian regime continues to expose its evil nature as well as its grudge against Iraq and the Arab nation. Last night and today, this criminal regime used long-range artillery to shell residential quarters in the Al-Basrah Governorate and the village of Qal'at Dizah. This enemy shelling martyred three civilians, wounded five others, and damaged a number of houses and civilian property in the Al-Basrah Governorate. One female citizen was also wounded in the village of Qal'at Dizah.

In view of such a situation, we must emphasize our indisputable right to reply to such crimes to protect our civilians and their security and property. We possess the right to do so at the appropriate time and in the manner we choose. Mercy to our martyrs and a speedy recovery to our wounded, God willing.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 17 August 1987

Communique No 2,783 Issued

JN181621 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1514 GMT 18 Aug 87

[Communique No 2,783 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 18 August]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. God, we thank you for granting us victory and for bestowing your blessings upon us. Lofty Iraqis, today your Air Force continued to substantiate your determination to wipe out the economic and vital facilities of the frustrated regime of charlatans. This regime relies on these facilities to pursue aggression against your borders, harm your sovereignty, and obstruct your civilization. A large number of our daring aircraft once again penetrated deep inside enemy territory this afternoon. They escaped detection by the enemy's air defenses and reached their assigned targets, with the following missions being accomplished:

1. At 1645 [1245 GMT] today, our aircraft dealt devastating blows to the oil pumping and production stations in the Marun oil field.

2. At the same time, other aircraft dealt devastating blows to the oil pumping and production stations in Gachsaran oil field No. 2.

3. Also at the same time, other aircraft dealt devastating blows to the oil pumping and production stations in Gachsaran oil field No 3.

4. Simultaneously, other aircraft dealt a devastating blow to the Gurreh oil pumping station.

5. Also at the same time, aircraft dealt a devastating blow to the Ramin electricity station.

After carrying out all these duties, our hawks and their aircraft returned safely to the homeland, bringing new glad tidings.

The regime of charlatans is the ally of Zionism. It wagered on the war's continuation and opposed the international community's consensus. This regime continued on the road to aggression and destruction and is now receiving harsh blows from the Iraqi heroes, particularly from our daring hawks, the pride of Iraq and the Arab nation.

Let the unjust Iranian rulers continue to insist on war as their evil intentions, sick minds, and evil spirits dictate to them. If they continue to do so, we are a people whose ethics, history, and civilization forbid them to condone any injustice or allow others to injure us. Inspired by our courageous, wise, and beloved leader, we will remain alert and will always carry the banners of freedom and dignity.

May God bless your hands, O men of our Air Force — commanders, hawks, officers, and other ranks. Your actions reflect your conscience. Almighty God is the one who grants victory.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 18 August 1987

Communique No 2,784 Issued

JN181642 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1600 GMT 18 Aug 87

[Communique No 2,784 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 18 August]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our valiant Armed Forces inflicted further losses on enemy personnel, weaponry, and military hardware during their combat activities last night and today. The following is a roundup of these activities:

1. Our valiant Air Force aircraft carried out 105 combat missions today. During these missions, they accomplished their duties of dealing blows to the enemy's vital facilities and destroying many of its rogues' assembly points, weapon emplacements, and military hardware in the operational sectors. After carrying out all these duties, our aircraft returned safely to base under God's protection.

2. Our daring helicopter gunships raided enemy positions opposite our units' positions in the operational sectors. Our helicopters then returned safely to base after carrying out 20 combat sorties. During these sorties, they sowed death among the enemy and destruction to the enemy's weapons and military hardware.

3. A heroic force of one of our units in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan resolutely raided enemy positions opposite its position. Our force destroyed several enemy infantry positions, killing or wounding their occupants, then safely returned to its position. Elsewhere in the same sector, our units destroyed two enemy infantry positions and one vehicle, and killed one enemy soldier.

4. Six enemy rogues were killed, four positions of various types were destroyed, and one ammunition dump was detonated in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

5. Our units in the I Army Corps northern sector killed five and wounded others, destroyed one 60-mm mortar, and set one vehicle carrying military hardware on fire.

6. One 106-mm gun was destroyed and those manning it were killed, one machinegun position was destroyed, and one ammunition dump was detonated in the II Army Corps central sector.

7. Using long-range artillery, the criminal enemy shelled residential areas in Basra, Al-'Uzayr, and Qal'at Dizah. As a result of the shelling, several houses and civilian properties were damaged.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 18 August 1987

Iranian Opposition Operations, Successes Reported

INLA Actions Noted

JN131902 Baghdad INA in English 1500 GMT 13 Aug 87

[Text] Baghdad, Aug. 13, INA — Units of the Iranian National Liberation Army [INLA] mounted three commando operations against Iranian regime forces in Sar Dasht area killing and wounding scores of them and capturing one.

Radio Mojahed, organ of the Iranian opposition organization of Mojahedin-e Khalq said in a broadcast monitored here today that the three attacks were mounted on 8th and 11th instant [as received] in which various kinds of weapons were used against Iranian regime forces.

The attacks, the radio added, also resulted in taking over weapons and occupying three positions in Bardasibian [as received] heights.

Mojahidin-e Khalq Action Noted

JN161603 Baghdad INA in English 1512 GMT 16 Aug 87

[Text] Baghdad, Aug 16, INA — A unit of Iran Liberation Army attacked an Iranian regime's patrol killing four of the patrol's men while the remainder fled.

Radio Mojahed, mouthpiece of Iranian opposition organization of Mojahedin-e Khalq said in a broadcast monitored here today that the Iranian Liberation Army unit ambushed on August 6 a patrol of the 21st Iranian regime's Army Division in the southern heights of Dehleran.

The radio added that various weapons were used during the attack.

Komla Attacks Reported

JN161609 Baghdad INA in English 1500 GMT 16 Aug 87

[Text] Paris, Aug. 16, INA — Units of the Iranian opposition organization of Komla carried out military operations against Iranian regime bases and positions in the towns of Sanandaj, Sakis, Marivan and Dewandra.

A Komla statement issued here today said its combatants attacked an Iranian troops positions in Sanandaj killing and wounding several troops and capturing 28 others in addition to seizing big quantities of ammunition and weapons.

It added that Komla combatants also attacked with various heavy and machineguns a regime base in Tawaryoura in Sanandaj capturing all base personnel and seized all ammunition and weapons and military supplies found there.

The Komla statement further added that its combatants confiscated during an attack on an Iranian regime company in Tawaryoura township mortar guns, machineguns, rifles, tube launchers, wireless sets, vehicles and quantities of documents.

It added that the combatants set the company building on fire after killing five Iranian regime elements and capturing 28 others.

The statement said that three Iranian regime soldiers were killed as a result of an explosion caused by an explosive charge planted by Komla combatants in the town of Sakis on 26th last month.

On 2nd instant [as received] Komla combatants executed an Iranian regime agent called Yadalla Bradi in the town of Diwandra for carrying out criminal acts against the town civilians.

25 Killed in Naval Exercise

JN151006 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0920 GMT 15 Aug 87

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Aug (INA) — The Iranian opposition Mojahedin-e Khalq organization has stated that 25 Khomeyni guards died during a naval maneuver the Iranian regime carried out early this month.

The Mohahed radio, organ of the Mojahedin-e Khalq organization, monitored here today said that the Iranian regime had imposed a news blackout on this incident and that Mehdi Mashhadi-Hoseyni, a Khomeyni guards commander, was among those killed.

Shamir Departs For Visit to Romania 17 Aug**Briefs Media Before Leaving**

TA171643 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1605 GMT 17 Aug 87

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir is currently holding a news conference in Ben-Gurion Airport's VIP lounge prior to his departure for Romania, where he is scheduled to meet with President Ceausescu. Our correspondent Meron Tzur has sent the following report live from the airport:

[Shamir, in progress]...is proceeding in a satisfactory fashion, and also to discuss with him the overall problems of immigration of Jews from other countries. We will discuss bilateral issues, as well as the economic, commercial, and cultural ties between Israel and Romania, and, as a result of this visit, we will try to expand and tighten these relations.

I am also looking forward to the opportunity to meet Romanian Jews and their great and dedicated chief rabbi, Mr Rosen.

[Tzur] Mr Prime Minister, good evening. Will you try to persuade Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu to join a regional conference, including Israel, Egypt, and Jordan, for direct Middle East peace negotiations?

[Shamir] I am not going to President Ceausescu with firm or finalized proposals. I prefer to hear his ideas and thoughts, and I will describe our positions and views to him. We will, naturally, also discuss the future and the contribution Mr Ceausescu could make, if possible.

[Tzur] Mr Prime Minister, you will no doubt discuss Israeli-Soviet relations or the possibility of establishing diplomatic relations with the PRC. Romania, after all, has good relations with both countries.

[Shamir] It is only natural for those topics to feature in our talks. Mr Ceausescu knows a lot -- certainly more than us -- on what is happening in the communist world. I will be happy to exchange views with him on the possibility of establishing ties between Israel on the one hand and the Soviet Union and the PRC on the other.

[Tzur] Mr Prime Minister, allow me to wish you a very good trip.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1700 GMT on 17 August, in a brief item quoting the above news conference, reports that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has departed for Romania].

Further Coverage on Visit

For coverage of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's visit to Romania, see the Romania section of the 18 August East Europe Daily Report and subsequent issues.

Results of Political Adviser's Talks With Soviets**Peres Cautiously Optimistic**

TA171417 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1400 GMT 17 Aug 87

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has expressed cautious optimism following the latest contacts with the Soviet Union. He was briefing the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee on the lengthy talks held in Bonn yesterday between his political adviser, Nimrod Novik, and a member of the Soviet Foreign Ministry.

Our correspondent Gid'on Remez was told that the Soviets had reported their intention to establish a direct channel of communications with Israel, and even to announce this publicly.

Mr Peres also told the committee that the Soviet Union is continuing to issue exit permits to Jews at a rate of 1,000 per month, and that the rate of those who come to Israel has increased to 31 percent.

Agreement Reached With Hungary

TA171852 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew
1800 GMT 17 Aug 87

[Text] At the end of last week the foreign minister's adviser Dr Nimrod Novik met in Bonn with Soviet diplomat Vladimir Tarasov, the deputy in charge of the Middle East for the Soviet Foreign Ministry. The meeting lasted about 10 hours, with the two discussing the peace process, the international conference, and bilateral issues. Our correspondent Elimelekh Ram reports that the meeting took place at Dr Novik's initiative and the Soviets agreed that it should be made public.

Today Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres disclosed to members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that it has recently been agreed between Israel and Hungary that a Hungarian interests office should be opened in Israel and an Israeli interests office should be opened in Hungary.

Soviets Optimistic on Syrian Role

TA171914 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1900 GMT 17 Aug 87

[Text] Soviet diplomats told the vice prime minister's adviser that in principle the Soviet Union accepts the assumption that an international conference would not impose a solution and would not intervene in bilateral talks. This was said this evening by the adviser, Nimrod Novik, to our correspondent Dick Winter, after Novik spent about 10 hours talking with Soviet officials in Bonn yesterday. He said that his interlocutors had told him that the Soviet Union's position on the international conference is still in the development and formulation stage and that there are differences of opinion between Israel and the Soviet Union over who is entitled to represent the Palestinians. The Soviets are optimistic about the chance of Syria agreeing to participate in the conference.

Dr Novik said that the matter of a reciprocal visit to that of the Soviet consular delegation in Israel was also raised, but he is not entitled to disclose what was said on this.

Correspondent Assesses Talks

TA171633 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1605 GMT 17 Aug 87

[Report by political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami]

[Text] Shim'on Peres' people are not shrinking from tightening links with Soviet elements. The meeting between Dr Novik, political adviser of the vice prime minister and foreign minister and the man responsible for the contacts with the Soviets, and Vladimir Tarasov, one of the heads of the Near East countries department of the Soviet Foreign Ministry, who is responsible for the issue of the peace process in our area, lasted for more than 10 hours yesterday. Incidentally, that conversation was recorded by Aleksey Chistyakov for the Soviets. He is the man who until recently was a member of the Soviet consular delegation that is in Israel.

The conclusion of yesterday's talk still finds points of dispute between the Israeli and Soviet positions, primarily on the matter of the PLO's incorporation in the international conference. Differences were also evident on the issues to be discussed in the bilateral framework and on issues which, in the Soviet's view, should be discussed within the multinational framework; that is, in the international conference plenum such as, for example, the Palestinian issue and that of the refugees.

The main achievement, then, lies in the fact that links were preserved. The spokesmen for both sides yesterday mentioned that the Shultz-Shevardnadze talk in the middle of next month will be the key meeting on the Middle East issue and the political process.

Consequences of Government Decision on JEC Reported

Decision Should Be Rejected

TA171201 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in English
16 Aug 87 p 5

[Editorial: "The People Should Decide JEC Future"]

[Text] The Israeli Government's decision last week on the Jerusalem Electricity Company [JEC] provides an example of Israeli plans against national institutions, energy resources and Arab sovereignty in the occupied territories. It also necessitates a reconsideration of certain stands adopted or thought of by some people under occupation.

It goes without saying that the Israeli practices in the occupied territories are illegal. Occupation itself is illegal; Israeli practices violate international law. Israel does not have the legitimate right to either cancel or extend the JEC's concession area or length of contract.

Having put all possible obstacles in the way of the JEC's progress and survival, the Israeli authorities have now decided to take their penultimate step against the company by stripping it of nearly one-third of its concession area and renewing its concession for just 10 more years under new conditions.

The national ranks consider that this step will only pave the way to the complete elimination of the company or to its being minimized to the level of serving the Israeli company.

The Israeli step, which also comes at a time when the authorities are tightening their grip on the occupied territories' water resources shows that Israeli current plans aim at preventing Palestinian society from having any independent base upon which to establish an independent political entity in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. If the Israeli Government had any sincere intention to help the JEC out of its current crisis, a different method would have been found. The Israeli authorities could simply have eliminated their restrictions which prohibit the JEC from finding a way to get rid of its debts and maintain its services to the people in its concession area.

The destruction of the JEC, where nearly 500 Palestinians are making a living, asserts to the Palestinians that all other institutions in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip are jeopardized as well; and that the main issue remains getting rid of the occupation before anything else.

What seems to be a JEC economic problem is obviously the manifestation of political decisions taken by the Israeli authorities over the past years. The issue, therefore, should be treated primarily as a political issue. Political issues, as is well-known, need the support of the masses above everything else. It is those masses who are harmed by decisions like this one and who are the only party entitled to decide how to respond to the Israeli new measures.

The JEC administration, which runs the daily affairs of the company, has to refer to the people's will in responding to the Israeli decision. The people's opposition to the Israeli measures has already been expressed by the popular committees formed by representatives of the national institution to follow up this issue. It was also expressed in the stand taken by the JEC workers union and by the union movement in the West Bank.

We believe the JEC administration should reject the Israeli decision and never violate the will of the majority of the population lest it be blamed for that forever. It is the people who have to decide. It is their company, so let the decision be theirs.

Workers Go on Strike

TA171856 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew
1800 GMT 17 Aug 87

[Text] Most shops in East Jerusalem were closed today to protest against the government decision to restrict the East Jerusalem Electricity Company's rights. Leaflets were distributed in East Jerusalem yesterday saying that the Israeli Government's decision is a political one aimed at harming the Palestinian nation.

Our correspondent Uri Kohen-Aharonov reports that 425 workers from the East Jerusalem Electric Company also went on strike today. Some of them even held a sit-down strike inside the company's building. The workers fear that as a result of the company's rights being restricted, the management will fire some of them. During the day, representatives of Palestinian organizations from Jerusalem and Ramallah came to express solidarity with the company's workers. This evening the East Jerusalem Electric Company's board of directors met again to discuss the company's future.

Pro-Jordan Movement Formed in Territories
TA161758 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
 1700 GMT 16 Aug 87

[Text] A group of municipal leaders, businessmen, and academics from rural areas of Judaea and Samaria have formed a pro-Jordanian movement that wants to discuss with Israelis a Palestinian confederation with Jordan on the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The group says it is composed of Palestinian moderates and is asking the Israeli authorities for permission to publish a newspaper and operate a radio station in the territories. Steve Rodan reports:

[Begin recording][Rodan] Jamil al-'Amlah is a well-known figure to Israeli officials as the leader of the village leagues, an Israeli-sponsored group that had aimed at becoming the most popular and influential movement in the territories. That effort failed, and today Al-'Amlah, mayor of the village of Baytillu near Hebron, has formed a group that pledges its allegiance to Jordan.

[Al-'Amlah] We attempt to do our movement a confederation between Jordan and Palestinian people, because we believe with King Husayn, and we know exactly our problem — only King Husayn will finish our problem — and he is a strong man who can help us in our problem. [sentence as heard]

[Rodan] Al-'Amlah says he has not received any open support or recognition from Jordan, and that's understandable. For years Jordan has looked upon the village leagues as an Israeli attempt to undercut Amman's influence in the territories. But times have

changed, and now Jordan and Israel are seen as coordinating quietly to undercut PLO influence as Amman seeks to gain more supporters.

Meanwhile, Al-'Amlah has been working with Israelis. Yesterday he met with a Knesset delegation, headed by Likud Knesset whip Hayim Kaufman who joined the new group's joint committee. Al-'Amlah says he will now try to convince the Israelis to extend the influence of his group. He wants permission to publish a newspaper called Shalom or Peace, as well as permission to operate a radio station. That station is the old Jordanian broadcast facility in Ramallah. [end recording]

Syrian Golan Fortifications Said Nearly Complete
TA171129 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
 1000 GMT 17 Aug 87

[Text] Brigadier General Yosef Eyal, commander of the IDF Engineers Corps, says that the Syrian Army is in a very advanced stage of completing fortification works and ground obstacles on the Golan Heights. He said that the Syrians are extending their fortifications, mine fields, antitank ditches and water obstacles. Brig Gen Eyal told our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal that if the IDF does not equip itself with the necessary means and does not train itself in order to find the answers to these obstacles, they may limit its movements. He noted that the Engineers Corps has recently been given preference for equipment upgrades.

Force-17 Claims Responsibility for Gaza Attack
TA171646 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
 1630 GMT 17 Aug 87

[Text] The PLO's Force-17 has assumed responsibility for the terrorist attack in Gaza yesterday. An international news agency in Beirut got an anonymous phone call in which a person announced that a Force-17 unit ambushed an Israeli vehicle yesterday, injuring a soldier and a civilian. The two were evacuated to the Soroka Medical Center in Beersheba.

Charles Glass Escapes Kidnappers in West Beirut*NC180422 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0315 GMT 18 Aug 87*

[Text] Security sources have reported that U.S. journalist Charles Glass, who was kidnapped with 'Ali 'Usayran, the son of the defense minister, last June in Al-Awza'i [West Beirut], arrived at the Summerland Hotel [in West Beirut] at 0230 in a taxi after escaping from his kidnappers. These sources added that Syrian units also arrived at the Summerland Hotel and accompanied Glass to an undisclosed destination.

Syrian Role Cited*NC180531 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0521 GMT 18 Aug 87*

[Excerpt] Reports received by the Voice of Lebanon confirm that U.S. journalist Charles Glass arrived by taxi at the Summerland Hotel in West Beirut last night. He was met by Syrian intelligence officers. The reports add that Glass was later moved to Damascus.

There have been conflicting reports on how Glass arrived at the Summerland Hotel. Some reports say that he escaped from his kidnappers, while others note that he was released as a result of Syrian pressure. [passage omitted]

Sources Detail 'Escape'*NC180627 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon
in Arabic 0612 GMT 18 Aug 87*

[Text] Here is a flash from our newsroom: We have details about journalist Charles Glass' escape from his kidnappers, as told to us by security sources in West Beirut a short time ago. They say Glass had been detained on the second floor of a building in the B'ir al-'Abd area. He seized his opportunity to escape while his kidnappers slept on the veranda of the house where he was kept and then headed toward the main road wearing a sports suit.

He encountered a family in front of a bakery in the area and asked one member to help him to get to the Summerland Hotel so that he could reach a doctor to examine his sick daughter. The individual agreed and called a taxi for him. The taxi took Glass to the Hotel at 0215 today, and he contacted his acquaintances from there. A Syrian unit then came to the hotel and at 0530 took the journalist to an undisclosed location. Syrian officials are now making contacts to deliver Glass to his family in London. That is all we know right now.

Reaches Damascus After 'Release'*NC180631 Paris AFP in English 0628 GMT 18 Aug 87*

[Text] Beirut, Aug 18 (AFP) — Charles Glass, the U.S. journalist abducted here June 17, reached Damascus on Tuesday following his release in Beirut's Shi'ite southern suburbs, a high-ranking Syrian officer here said.

The kidnappers released Mr Glass at 3 a.m. local time (0000 GMT) and he walked to a Syrian roadblock on the Beirut Airport road, which runs along the edge of the southern suburbs, the officer told *Agence France-Presse*. He was taken directly to Damascus.

Hizballah Claims Responsibility for Saudi Blast*NC180520 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0415 GMT 18 Aug 87*

[Text] In a statement issued in Beirut, the Saudi branch of Hizballah has claimed responsibility for an explosion at a Saudi gas plant last Saturday which killed one person and wounded five others. The statement, which was delivered to a foreign news agency, pledged to continue along this path until the roots of the corrupt Saudi regime are eradicated.

The Saudi authorities have declared that the explosion was not the result of terrorism.

SSNP Official Reportedly Killed in 'Akkar*NC171412 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic
1345 GMT 17 Aug 87*

[Text] According to special information received by Radio Free Lebanon, gunmen assassinated Ghazi Talib, the secretary general of the Syrian Social Nationalist Party (SSNP) in the 'Akkar region at 1545 today. Talib belongs to the Jubran Juraysh [dissident] wing of the party.

Meanwhile, tension continues to prevail in the area following clashes last night between the two [Isam al-Mahayri and Jubran Juraysh] SSNP wings.

Official Reported Alive*NC171946 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1915 GMT 17 Aug 87*

[Text] According to the latest information received from the 'Akkar area, noticeable calm continues to prevail there in the wake of an exchange of kidnappings that took place today between the two wings of the Syrian Social Nationalist Party [SSNP], represented by Jubran Juraysh and 'Isam al-Mahayri.

According to information tonight, there was an exchange of kidnapped persons under Syrian supervision at Syrian intelligence headquarters in Halba. Ghazi Talib, an SSNP official in Jubran Juraysh's wing, who was kidnapped this afternoon, was among those released in the exchange.

3 Killed in Inter-Lebanese Forces Clashes*NC181057 Beirut Voice of National Resistance
in Arabic 1015 GMT 18 Aug 87*

[Text] According to reports from East Beirut, clashes have taken place among elements of the Lebanese Forces. The circumstances surrounding the clashes are not clear. At least three

persons have been killed: Tony Badawi of Al-Batrun; someone from Ihmij town; and another individual from the town of Mishmish in the Jubayl district.

Rockets Hit Iranian Guards Center in Ba'labakk
NC181031 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1015 GMT 18 Aug 87

[Text] According to security sources in Ba'labakk, three Grad rockets were fired last night at the Al-Shaykh 'Abdallah Barracks and the Khawwan Hotel in the city, both used by the [Iranian] Revolutionary Guards as headquarters for leaders and personnel. The information adds that a number of people killed and wounded were taken to the Khomeyni Medical Center in Ra's al-Ayn. Iranian officials have remained silent about the incident. Press and news agency correspondents were instructed not to publicize the incident.

Syrians Prepare for 'Certain Operation' in Suburb
NC172025 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 1945 GMT 17 Aug 87

[Text] According to information from West Beirut, the Syrian occupation forces have implemented strict security measures in the areas in which they are deployed in Lebanon. These measures, which have been put into effect under the personal supervision of Major General 'Ali Aslan, are being interpreted as an attempt to tighten the noose around the southern suburb and to prepare for a certain operation by Syria after the Syrian Command becomes convinced that it has achieved a breakthrough in the suburb through the Amal Movement.

According to these reports, the security measures which the Syrians have implemented in the other areas in which they are deployed are the result of Syrian fears of security violations against their interests.

Investigator Rescinds Salibi Arrest Warrant
NC181052 Beirut Voice of National Resistance
in Arabic 1015 GMT 18 Aug 87

[Text] It has been learned from informed judicial sources that Judge Walid Ghamrah, the judicial investigator into the assassination of martyr Prime Minister Rashid Karami, has rescinded a warrant for the arrest of Private Elie Louis Salibi, the prime suspect in the crime. The same sources explained that the writ's withdrawal means that Private Salibi will not be prosecuted.

We note that defendant Salibi has been held in Sweden pending the completion of measures necessary for his extradition and interrogation.

Television To Cease Transmission Due to Strike
NC171544 Beirut Voice of National Resistance
in Arabic 1430 GMT 17 Aug 87

[Text] Following the official radio's suspension of its transmission, it is now the television station's turn to follow suit. The Lebanon Television Employees Union has announced that an indefinite strike will begin tomorrow morning during which all operating television channels will halt transmission. In a statement, the union explained that it will not end the strike until its demands are met and arrears due to the employees are paid.

Parliamentary Information Committee Chairman Mahmud 'Ammar has invited the committee members to a meeting next Thursday morning to discuss the official radio's suspension of transmission. The information minister, the Information Ministry director general, the radio's director, and the director of the NNA [National News Agency] have also been invited to attend the meeting.

Hostage Glass Leaves Beirut, Arrives in Damascus**Official Says Glass 'Released'***NC181027 Paris AFP in English 1023 GMT 18 Aug 87*

[Text] Damascus, Aug 18 (AFP) — Pale but smiling, U.S. journalist Charles Glass was turned over to the U.S. charge d'affaires here Tuesday, several hours after he gained freedom from two months of captivity in Lebanon.

Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' handed over the 36-year-old reporter, who was wearing a white shirt and light-colored trousers. Mr. Glass, a former correspondent for the U.S. ABC Television Network, embraced several of the journalists assembled outside the Foreign Ministry building.

Mr. Glass was released by his kidnappers at 3 A.M. local time (0000 GMT) in Beirut's Shi'ite southern suburbs, a senior Syrian officer told *Agence France-Presse* in the Lebanese capital.

Syria had lobbied heavily for Mr. Glass' release since he was abducted June 17 just south of Beirut on a road controlled by Syrian troops.

But press reports in Lebanon said that Mr. Glass had escaped his captors rather than being released.

Glass Details Escape*JN180742 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0700 GMT 18 Aug 87*

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Text] Syrian sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, stated that U.S. journalist Charles Glass, kidnapped in Lebanon on 17 June, is now in Damascus and is in good health. The U.S. ABC Television Network in Damascus stated that it had received the same confirmation from Syrian officials.

A U.S. Embassy spokesman in Damascus said Charge d'Affaires David Ransom had left for the Syrian Foreign Ministry to obtain official confirmation in this regard.

Glass suddenly appeared, barefooted, at the Summerland Hotel in West Beirut at 0230 today. According to Lebanese police sources, he told the receptionist: I am Charles Glass and I want a place to hide. Immediately afterward, a doctor examined Glass, 37, and pronounced him in good health.

According to the same sources, Glass said he had escaped from the window of a room on the 10th floor of the building he was detained in. He added: While my kidnappers were asleep, I crept through the window and then down the building's staircase to freedom. Glass then asked the receptionist to obtain protection for him. The receptionist informed the Syrian forces center and at about 0630 a Syrian force arrived and surrounded the hotel. Three Syrian officers entered the hotel and spoke with Glass before taking him away with them. At about 0730 Glass was safe in the hands of Syrian authorities in Damascus.

The ABC news office in Damascus contacted the Glass family and his friends to reassure them about his safety.

Minister on Remaining Hostages*JN181040 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1015 GMT 18 Aug 87*

[Text] U.S. journalist Charles Glass, who has been held in Lebanon since 17 June, was delivered to David Ransom, U.S. charge d'affaires, at the Foreign Ministry Building in Damascus this morning. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' handed him over to the U.S. charge d'affaires in the presence of a representative from the U.S. ABC Television Network, where Glass had been employed.

Before a crowd of Arab, Syrian, and foreign journalists, Glass thanked the Syrian Government and the Syrian forces in Lebanon for their efforts to release him. David Ransom also thanked President Hafiz al-Asad and the Syrian Government on behalf of the U.S. Government for the continuous efforts that led to Glass' release.

In a related development, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' answered reporters' questions by stressing that Syria, under President Hafiz al-Asad's leadership, will continue its efforts to secure the release of all those held in Lebanon. On behalf of President Hafiz al-Asad, the minister congratulated Glass and his family on his safe return. Al-Shar' added that Glass' abduction in West Beirut, where Syrian forces are present, was unacceptable because everyone knows that Syria is determined to preserve security and order in that area. He added: Therefore, Syria exerted every possible effort and applied all sorts of pressure from the start to secure Glass' release.

UAE President Arrives on State Visit 15 Aug*JN151156 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 15 Aug 87*

[Excerpts] His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nahayyan, president of the UAE, arrived in Damascus at 1230 today on a state and friendly visit. His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad was on hand at Damascus International Airport to welcome the UAE president, as were vice Presidents 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqa. Also present at the airport were Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', and Syrian ambassador to the UAE Muhammad Kabur. [passage omitted].

President al-Asad and Shaykh Zayid then proceeded to Tishrin Palace where they met in the presence of Syrian officials and members of the UAE president's delegation.

Makes Statement Upon Arrival*JN151500 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1415 GMT 15 Aug 87*

[Excerpt][Passage omitted] In a statement to journalists after his arrival in Damascus, [UAE President] Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan

Al Nuhayyan said: I and the delegation accompanying me are pleased to visit Syria in order to meet with my brother His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and the fraternal Syrian people. This opportunity permits me to express the firm brotherly feeling and the sincere love and appreciation the UAE people and I harbor for his excellency and for the honorable Syrian people.

Undoubtedly, the difficult circumstances the Arab and the Islamic nations are currently experiencing necessitate holding meetings among leaders. Our visit to the Syrian Arab Republic stems from our desire to unify the Arab and Islamic nations; to attain our cohesion; to unify our forces and capabilities in the service of our nation and in protection of our homeland; and to study the conditions of the Arab nation which require unification of ranks to deliver us from the prevailing state of disintegration and fragmentation which has lasted a long time and caused continuous losses. I have great hopes of ending this fragmentation in which we are involved. The supreme national interest no longer tolerates this fragmentation and disintegration. This is the feeling of every Muslim and Arab. I am confident that this is the sublime feeling of our Islamic nation, which believes in God, his prophet, and the day of judgment.

I have great hopes our brothers will come to the aid of their Muslim brothers. We will neither despair nor give up our calls demanding whatever brings insight and power to our present and future. I hope the Almighty will guide us to champion the causes of the Arab and Islamic nations and unify them. I am confident my brother His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, as I used to know him, takes the lead in launching benevolent initiatives and guides his fellow leaders who call for the unification of the Islamic nation's ranks. My God guide us to the right path, for He responds to all prayers.

'Closed' Meeting Held

JN151848 Damascus Television Service in Arabic
1730 GMT 15 Aug 87

[Text] The talks between President Hafiz al-Asad and His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan began at 1800 GMT today when they held a meeting at the presidential palace. The meeting was attended by Vice Presidents 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqa; Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm; Interior Minister Muhammad Ghabbash; Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'; 'Isam al-Na'ib, minister of state for foreign affairs; and members of the official delegation accompanying His Highness Shaykh Zayid.

At 1845, the president and Shaykh Zayid resumed their talks in a closed meeting. Discussion centered on the current situation and developments in the region, including the situation in the Gulf region, relations between the Syrian Arab Republic and the UAE, and issues of common interest.

Talks Resume 16 Aug

JN161045 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1015 GMT 16 Aug 87

[Text] In Damascus, His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and

His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, UAE president, resumed talks at the presidential palace at 1130 today. The talks were attended by the members of the official delegation accompanying the president; Vice Presidents 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Dr Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqa; Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm; Interior Minister Muhammad Ghabbash; Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'; and 'Isam al-Na'ib, minister of state for foreign affairs.

His excellency the president and Shaykh Zayid continued their talks in a closed meeting that began at 1215 today. Discussion dealt with issues related to the current situation and developments in the region and the Arab arena, including the situation in the Gulf region, as well as topics pertaining to Arab solidarity, joint Arab action, and bilateral relations.

Talks, Luncheon Held 17 Aug

JN172028 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
2015 GMT 17 Aug 87

[Text] A meeting was held today between President Hafiz al-Asad and His Highness UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan. During the meeting, they resumed discussion of the topics they had begun in previous meetings. His Highness Shaykh Zayid lunched at the president's table at Bludan. His accompanying delegation and the Syrian delegation to the talks also ate lunch at the president's table.

Visit Extended; Envoys Sent

JN180824 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
0500 GMT 18 Aug 87

[Text] The major part of the talks His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, the UAE president, is holding in Damascus is devoted to Saudi-Iranian and Syrian-Iraqi relations. Shaykh Zayid extended his visit to Damascus, which was scheduled to end yesterday, and dispatched two envoys to Baghdad who met with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and then returned to Damascus. Meanwhile, Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i is expected to arrive in the Syrian capital sometime today. We have the following dispatch from our correspondent Louis Faris in Damascus:

[Begin recording] The sources accompanying the UAE president said that Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, who has been visiting Damascus since Saturday [15 August], has decided to extend his visit to Damascus which was scheduled to end on Monday. Shaykh Zayid, who has held several meetings with President Hafiz al-Asad, met with the Syrian president again at noon yesterday and lunched with him at the Bludan summer resort west of Damascus. Members of the two delegations which are taking part in the talks attended the luncheon banquet.

It has also been learned that Shaykh Zayid dispatched his personal envoy, Ahmad Kalifah al-Suwaydi, and Rashid al-'Abdallah, UAE minister of state for foreign affairs, to Baghdad. It is known that the Iraqi president received Shaykh Zayid's envoys yesterday. The UAE delegation's sources said that the two envoys briefed the Iraqi president on the results of Shaykh

Zayid's talks in Damascus and on Shaykh Zayid's efforts to clear the atmosphere between Damascus and Baghdad within the framework of the endeavors to bolster Arab solidarity and the joint Arab action.

A parallel development took place on Sunday when the envoy of Saudi Arabian King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz conveyed an important message from the custodian of the two holy mosques to President Hafiz al-Asad. The sources accompanying Shaykh Zayid added that it was necessary to extend his visit to Damascus due to the great importance of the issues under discussion. They also referred to the importance of the meeting between Syrian Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm and the under secretary of the UAE Ministry of Finance and Industry during which they discussed ways to develop bilateral economic cooperation and ways to encourage foreign investments in general, as well as the UAE private sector investments, particularly in tourism and agricultural areas in Syria.

Furthermore, Lakhdar Ibrahim, assistant secretary general of the Arab League and former Algerian foreign affairs minister, arrived in the Syrian capital on Monday. Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i is also expected to arrive in Damascus sometime today. He arrives at a time when observers are (?noticing) Jordan's persistent efforts over the past few months to effect Syrian-Iraqi reconciliation.

In conclusion, Syria has decided to introduce a 30 percent reduction of port fees for all transit commodities arriving at Syrian ports en route to other countries as of this week, for a period of 1 year. [end recording]

Zayid Receives Libyan Envoy

JN181056 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic
0930 GMT 18 Aug 87

[Text] Damascus — UAE President His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan has received a verbal message from Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhafi, president of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyyah. The message deals with relations between the two countries.

The Libyan leader's envoy, Colonel Yusuf al-Dawbari, delivered the message when His Highness Shaykh Zayid received him at his place of residence in Damascus today. The UAE president's representative, His Excellency Ahmad Khalifah al-Suwaydi, and Shaykh Sultan ibn Zayid attended the meeting.

Meeting Held 18 Aug

JN181240 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1115 GMT 18 Aug 87

[Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the UAE, resumed their talks at noon today in a closed meeting. Shaykh Rashid ibn Ahmad al-Mu'alla, member of the UAE Supreme Council and ruler of Umm al-Quwayn; 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, vice president of the Syrian Arab Republic; Faruq al-Shar', minister of foreign affairs; Ahmad Khalifah al-Suwaydi, repre-

sentative of the UAE president; and Rashid 'Abdallah, UAE minister of state for foreign affairs, later joined the meeting.

Al-Shar' Opens Arab Meeting on Terrorism

JN161415 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1315 GMT 16 Aug 87

[Text] In Damascus, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has opened the work of the Arab committee entrusted with preparing an Arab working paper on convening an international conference on terrorism.

Al-Shar' spoke at the beginning of the meeting. In his remarks, he reiterated that Syria rejects terrorism and its dangers. He added that Syria rejects those who advocate terrorism to implement their vile objectives and plots. He asserted that Syria firmly supports peoples' national liberation struggles and also the national resistance to liberate land and regain usurped rights.

In his speech, Al-Shar' explained that the Syrian initiative on convening an international conference on terrorism was to defend the Arab concept of liberation struggle. It is also intended to confront enemies of this nation who attempt to distort the Arabs' image everywhere under their false slogan of combating terrorism.

Committee Concludes Meetings

JN181136 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
0415 GMT 18 Aug 87

[Text] Damascus — The Arab committee entrusted with defining terrorism and differentiating between terrorism and the peoples' struggle ended its meetings yesterday. These meetings were chaired by Shaykh Ahmad al-Kuhaymi, Saudi ambassador in Damascus and chairman of the current Arab League session. It was attended by 'Adnan 'Umran, Arab league assistant secretary general for political affairs, and representatives of the Arab countries participating in the committee.

During the final session, the conferees agreed to formulate a joint Arab concept in implementation of the Arab League Council's resolution calling for a UN-sponsored international conference to define terrorism and distinguish between it and the people's struggle for liberation. A draft resolution in this regard will be presented to the next UN General Assembly session.

A SANA correspondent said the basic elements of the desired UN resolution calling for an international conference on terrorism stem from the Syrian initiative which acquired the support of the international community, and from the full conviction and international unanimity to combat terrorism. They also stem from the importance of international cooperation in adopting the necessary measures to combat terrorism, and from the belief in the legitimacy of the colonized people's struggle for liberation and self-determination. The importance of issuing such a resolution is also derived from the absence of specific international standards which enable the international community to distinguish between terrorism — which must be condemned and combated — and the peoples' legitimate struggle for national

liberation, in addition to the international community's need to convene a UN-sponsored international conference to draw up the criteria for distinguishing between terrorism and the peoples' national legitimate struggle.

It is noteworthy that this Arab committee was formed in implementation of the third paragraph of the Arab League Council's resolution issued on 6 April 1987. It stipulated the formation of an Arab committee to prepare a joint Arab working paper which the Arab UN delegations in New York would jointly defend and accordingly use to win support for a UN resolution calling for an international conference to define terrorism.

People's Assembly Speaker Leaves for USSR 18 Aug

JN180836 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic

0715 GMT 18 Aug 87

[Text] People's Assembly Speaker Mahmud al-Zu'bi left Damascus for the USSR at 0830 this morning on an official visit at the invitation of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

In a statement before his departure, Al-Zu'bi said: This visit comes within the framework of the People's Assembly endeavors to perform its duties and to expand its parliamentary relations on an Arab and international level in order to serve our Arab issues. It also comes within the context of the exchange of visits and the strengthening of relations between the Syrian Arab Republic and the USSR. These relations are built on the bases of the friendship and cooperation treaty.

Politburo Approves Gorbachev-Najib Meeting Report
LD151455 Kabul BAKHTAR in Pashto 1600 GMT 15 Aug 87

[Text] Kabul, 15 Aug (*Bakhtar*) — A regular session of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo was held on 14 August 1987.

At this session, a discussion was held on the results of the 20 July meeting in Moscow between M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and Comrade Najib, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee.

The Politburo heard Comrade Najib's report about his meeting with M.S. Gorbachev and other Soviet leaders and then comprehensively deliberated it.

The PDPA Central Committee Politburo pointed out that these meetings and talks indicate a further consolidation of traditional Afghan-Soviet friendship and are a new step toward further strengthening international relations between the PDPA and the CPSU.

The Politburo session optimistically welcomed the existence of a complete concurrence of views at these meetings with regard to the policy of national reconciliation. The PDPA has forged ahead with this policy, for it is the only proper one to achieve peace in Afghanistan. It will also enhance the knowledge and perception of the people in their country's destiny,

On behalf of the party and people of Afghanistan, the members of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo expressed their profound appreciation to the party and government leadership and to all people of the Soviet Union for their fraternal and comprehensive assistance to the people of Afghanistan.

The PDPA Central Committee Politburo thoroughly and completely approved the results of the meetings and talks between Comrade Najib, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, and M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

Najib Chairs Draft Constitution Commission Session
LD161925 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 16 Aug 87

[Text] A routine session of the DRA Draft Constitution Commission was held this afternoon at the Golkhana Palace, the Revolutionary Council Headquarters, under the chairmanship of Comrade Najib, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee. Haji Mohammad Chamkani, president of the DRA Revolutionary Council and the Revolutionary Council Presidium, some Politburo members and members of the PDPA Central Committee Secretariat, members of the Revolutionary Council and the Council of Ministers, and social and cultural personalities of the country also participated in the meeting.

Addressing the session conferees, Comrade Najib said: The constitution, which we rightly consider to be the fundamental document of national reconciliation in all our measures, has been before the people for a month. All theoretical and practical

aspects of reconciliation have been defined (?in the constitution); therefore, it is not without justification that it has provoked the interest of all our people. The draft has been discussed in 40 percent of the collectives, departments, and establishments of the toilers, and they have expressed their views on it.

Comrade Najib added: What results have so far been achieved from these discussions of the draft constitution? (?The people) consider the publication of this draft in the mass media to be a valuable and important step by the Revolutionary Council Presidium. This step is a sign of further expanding democracy in the country, and the opinions of the people are appreciated as an (?expression) and will with regard to the country's greatest legal document. The fact that the (?draft) reflects the present situation in our country is confirmed by citizens throughout the land.

During today's session of the Draft Constitution Commission, Abdorrahim Hatef, chairman of the National Front, presented the report of the working committee of the draft constitution concerning the referendum work which has been carried out for 1 month. Farid Ahmad Mazdak, candidate member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the DYOA, spoke about the part being played by youths in explaining the draft constitution. Abdol Satar Pordeli, chairman of the Central Council of Trade Unions, talked about the participation of the toilers in the (?completion) of the draft constitution. Bareq Shafii, editor of the daily *Haqiqat-e Enqelab-e Sowr*, noted the role of the mass media in explaining the draft constitution and the trend of the people's opinion in this regard.

During this session of the Draft Constitution Commission, the working committee was tasked with making strong efforts to categorize the proposals and opinions of compatriots with regard to the draft constitution and to hand these proposals and opinions to the Draft Constitution Commission.

Those attending the session also expressed the view that the publication of the DRA draft constitution in the mass media for referendum has been transformed into an important event in the sociopolitical life of Afghan society as expected. This matter in principle has been welcomed by the people to such an extent that we could say it is unprecedented in the country's history.

Chamkani Chairs Revolutionary Council Session
LD172044 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 17 Aug 87

[Text] A routine session of the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium was held this morning at Golkhana Palace, the headquarters of the Revolutionary Council, under the chairmanship of Haji Mohammad Chamkani, acting president of the Revolutionary Council and the Revolutionary Council Presidium.

The conferees discussed the draft decree concerning the pardoning of [words indistinct] crimes, reemployment, and the payment of retirement rights to the officers and NCO's of the central corps, unit NCO's, and troops of the DRA Armed Forces. Following a comprehensive discussion, a commission was appointed to thoroughly study the draft and to present its findings at the next session of the Revolutionary Council Presidium.

To ensure the future development of training for DRA Air Force staff and to create a spirit of pride among this staff, the Revolutionary Council Presidium approved a decree, in 14 articles, concerning the banner and badge of the DRA Air Force. The decree explains the method for utilizing the banner and badge of the DRA Air Force.

The Revolutionary Council Presidium also approved matters related to the distribution of DRA medals and badges to a number of people entitled to receive them. Necessary measures were taken in this regard.

Those attending the Revolutionary Council Presidium session discussed topics concerning the remaining period of imprisonment, the pardoning of crimes related to taxes, the (?reduction) of taxation crimes on an installment basis, and a number of organizational matters. A resolution was also issued in this regard.

The session was attended by representatives from the Armed Forces section of the PDPA Central Committee, the DRA Ministry of Defense, and members of the various departments of the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium apparatus.

7 Pakistani 'Aggressors' Reportedly Killed 15 Aug
LD180808 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0415 GMT 18 Aug 87

[Text] Kabul, August 17, *Bakhtar* — The youths of Turi tribe attacked several military centers of Pakistani forces as well as centres of Afghan extremist groups in Khurram Agency which caused heavy casualties to the aggressive forces reports reaching here say.

Seven persons from Pakistani aggressors have been killed when the Turi youths attacked temporary garrisons in Sultan Cheraï

[placename as received] and Wazirabad of Parachinar area on August 15 added the report.

Moreover the Turi youths took under fire two Pakistani militia posts in Khoshnagal and Barik Ow regions which also brought heavy casualties to the militias. A military training center of Afghan-extremist groups was attacked by Turi youths as a result of which three extremist elements were killed and five others were seriously wounded. At the same time three military camps of Pakistani forces were completely destroyed.

The Pakistani forces in retaliation made attacks on Luqman Kheyl village and set on fire the residences of Turi tribes there.

Mujahidin Disrupt Fuel Transfer From USSR
LD170924 Tehran IRNA in English 0644 GMT 17 Aug 87

[Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Prov., Aug. 17, IRNA — The Afghan Muslim mujahidin fighting against the Soviet backed regime of Kabul, in late July destroyed about one kilometer of a pipeline carrying fuel from the Soviet Union to Afghanistan, said reliable Afghan mujahidin sources here Sunday.

The pipeline was blown up after a 7-hour battle, disrupting transfer of fuel from the Soviet Union to the largest Soviet air base in Afghanistan's province of Shindand.

In this battle two Soviet tanks were destroyed by mujahidin rockets and 16 officers and eight soldiers of the Kabul regime along with three Soviet military advisors were killed.

According to a similar report the mujahidin in an attack on bases of joint Afghan Government and Soviet forces in Herat two weeks ago, killed 51 government troops and destroyed eight tanks and personnel carriers.

2 Killed, 1 Injured in Dhaka Explosion 17 Aug

*BK171719 Hong Kong AFP in English
1716 GMT 17 Aug 87*

[Text] Dhaka, Aug 17 (AFP) — Two people were killed and one injured Monday [17 August] by an explosion at a house in Dhaka which may have been caused by the mishandling of a bomb, police said.

Three people were taken to Dhaka's medical college hospital in critical condition after the explosion early Monday in the capital's Khilgaon District, and two of them died under care later in the day, a police spokesman said.

He declined to give any details about the victims or the house where the explosion took place, but said the blast may have occurred during the making or handling of bombs. Police were investigating the incident.

The third victim was still in critical condition, hospital sources said.

Meanwhile, two rival groups of students at a government college near Dhaka's New Market District clashed for an hour mid-day Monday with sticks, guns and explosives, police and witnesses said.

At least one of the students suffered bullet wounds, witnesses said.

The students were supporters of the country's two leading opposition groups, the Awami League and the Bangladesh Nationalist Party, they said.

Gandhi Special Envoy Calls on Ershad 17 Aug

*BK170750 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
0700 GMT 17 Aug 87*

[Text] Indian Minister for Human Resources Development and Housing and Family Planning P.V. Narasimha Rao arrived in Dhaka this morning as a special envoy of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. He was received at the Zia International Airport by Planning Minister A.K. Khandokar. Mr Rao called on President Ershad at Banga Bhavan [President's house].

Envoy Ends Talks, Departs

*BK171328 Dhaka Overseas Service in English
1230 GMT 17 Aug 87*

[Text] Bangladesh and India are eager to find a satisfactory solution to the Chakma [tribal] refugee problem. Both President

Ershad and Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi sincerely wanted this problem to be resolved on an urgent basis. This was stated by the special envoy of the Indian prime minister and human resources development minister, Mr V.P. Narasimha Rao, while addressing a news conference at Zia International Airport today prior to his departure for New Delhi after a day's goodwill visit to Dhaka.

The Indian minister for human resources development and health and family welfare, Narasimha Rao, arrived in Dhaka this morning as a special envoy of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

He was received at the Zia International Airport by Planning Minister A.K. Khandokar.

Mr Rao called on President Ershad at Banga Bhavan [president's house].

Japanese Foreign Minister Concludes Visit, Leaves

*BK151349 Dhaka Overseas Service in English
1230 GMT 15 Aug 87*

[Text] The visiting Japanese foreign minister, Tadashi Kuranari, left Dhaka today for home at the conclusion of his 3-day visit to Bangladesh.

On the eve of his departure, the Japanese foreign minister told newsmen that his visit to Bangladesh, as well as his talks with President Ershad and other government leaders, were very useful. He said Japan and Bangladesh will remain eternal friends and continue to work together for peace and development.

The Japanese foreign minister, Mr Kuranari, was seen off at the airport by Foreign Minister Humayun Rashid Chowdhury and Begum Chowdhury.

Earlier, the Japanese foreign minister called on Vice President Nurul Islam in Dhaka this morning. The vice president apprised the Japanese foreign minister of various (?welfare) steps taken by the president for the development of the country and welfare of its people. He said Bangladesh attaches high priority to the relations with Japan and expressed the hope that Mr Kuranari's current visit would facilitate further promotion of existing friendly relations between the two countries.

Mr Tadashi Kuranari told the vice president that he is impressed by the sincere efforts of the present Government of Bangladesh for the development of the country. He said Japan will continue to cooperate with Bangladesh's development efforts. The Japanese foreign minister expressed sympathy for the flood-affected people of the country.

Prime Minister Delivers Independence Day Address
BK161334 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network
in Hindi 0201 GMT 15 Aug 87

[Address to the nation by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on Independence Day anniversary — live]

[Excerpts] Friends, every anniversary of independence is sacred to the country. On each anniversary, we remember our freedom fighters. On such a day our attention focuses on the builders of modern India. Standing on the sacred soil of the Red Fort today, our attention is drawn back to 1857 when our first freedom fighters came to this fort. [passage omitted on significance of Red Fort]

During the past 4 decades we have faced many difficulties. There were threats and pressures on us; we confronted conspiracies and encountered aggression. We did not bow down or retreat. We safeguarded and molded India's unity and solidarity with our valor, blood, and sacrifice. We have shown the world that India is strong and united; it cannot be subdued. We have proven that no one can subjugate us again. No one can weaken the unity of India. Nothing is too burdensome for us, no effort too trivial, and no sacrifice too great for the security, independence, and unity of our country.

On our borders, our soldiers and officers have sacrificed their youth for our security. In return, we look after them and provide them with sophisticated weapons and ammunition. We resolve to see to their needs.

The meaning of freedom in India is freedom for the people of India, strengthening the roots of democracy, conducting free and fair elections with the participation of every Indian citizen, and running an independent parliament in which the voice of the people, the builders of our country's future, should be heard. An independent India means that there should be impartial jurists and the rule of law. There should be freedom of the press. However, it is not easy to protect democracy, particularly when we see that there are so many people threatening our independence by being irresponsible, undisciplined, and not respecting the Constitution and its institutions. Even then, we have proven that the roots of democracy are firmly fixed in our country. Our people should be vigilant. We should see that democracy is the only form of government that can work in a country like India.

Our great economic achievements have been recognized throughout the world. Gandhiji [Mahatma Gandhi] taught us that the task of development, the task of building the country begins with the eradication of poverty. [passage omitted on government's drive to eradicate poverty and implementation of Indira Gandhi's 20-point program] Today, I can say with pride that India will not bow before anyone as hungry people.

Furthermore, at the time of independence our industries produced little. Today, with the development of the last 40 years, our industries have advanced to the point of producing goods on par with the developed countries of the world. Today, we can make rapid strides and compete with others. Our scientists have shown to the world that they can make great scientific inventions. Our technocrats have proven that they can handle all types of

technology successfully. The path before us is very long, but no one can say that we have not gone a long way in the last 40 years. [passage omitted on government's plans to increase production, to eradicate the unemployment problem, and to combat drought conditions]

A grave situation confronts us this year — the drought. The drought has spread over many parts of the country. We have not had one for several years. There was drought in 1965 and 1966, but, although severe it was confined to one or two states. However, this year drought has reached nearly all corners of the country. Because of Mrs Indira Gandhi's foresight in increasing food production, our economic position remains strong as we have no shortage of food in order to combat the drought. It exists, but we can meet the challenge today only because Mrs Indira Gandhi launched the Green Revolution.

Some states are experiencing drought for the third or fourth year in succession and the crop situation there is very poor. The greatest hardship falls on the poor; their needs have the top priority. Our attention is focused on the landless and small farmers who have either become unemployed or cannot find work. There are shortages of drinking water in the villages and cities of some states. There are also shortages of fodder for animals in several areas. We will give priority to drought relief and devote all our efforts to solving the problem.

As head of the government, I pledge that we will give full attention and priority to the drought situation. [applause] We will see that food is sent to all rural areas from our central food reserve. We will also see that the poor receive the full benefit of relief and other sources of income. We will provide employment to those people who need work and see that nobody is hungry or faces starvation. We will strengthen the public distribution system so that we can reach all remote corners of the country, especially in rural areas. The people should not have to walk too far to get help. We will see that there is plenty of drinking water and that it can be transported easily to the people. We must give special attention to animal fodder so that the animals do not face difficulties.

To combat drought, we must make a large joint effort between the Center and the states. We will see that all the people are provided with all the assistance we have. At the same time, we must arrange that the state governments operate promptly and effectively, as they have access to the rural and village areas. We will provide help and assistance, but the states will have to work fast in this regard. Therefore, I have written letters to those chief ministers whose states have been affected by drought. I will call a meeting of the chief ministers so that we can decide how to jointly combat this drought and to find ways by which the poor can be freed from any difficulties.

We have many tasks before us, but because our country is strong we can meet the challenge. We need to devote all our attention and energies to combating the drought. Our food warehouses are full and we have also the vision and capability. Today we can meet the challenge of food shortages without requesting any foreign aid.

However, it is essential for us to understand that development should not be stopped in order to solve the drought problem. We will be confronted by even greater problems in the future if development is suspended. We must find the means to meet this challenge without suspending or slackening development. This requires help and cooperation, and also reducing or discontinuing unnecessary expenses. I have directed all ministries to take steps in this regard. We must see that similar measures are taken by the states.

For its part, the government will do whatever is possible. However, no government can combat such a severe drought alone. Therefore, it is essential that the people, especially the young, should come forward and help the government combat this challenge. [applause] This grave challenge should be met by all men and women on individual, collective, and social levels, together with the government. We will also launch a movement at the village and poor residential level and take it to all parts of the country. Now is the time for fortunate people to help the less fortunate ones.

We also must be vigilant so that antisocial elements do not profit by exploiting the difficulties of others. We must fight them and bring an end to hoarding and profiteering. [applause] If we can successfully combat these antisocial elements, then we will be able to keep everything under control. There will be no shortages on our part. We will see to it that with the full might of the government these antisocial elements are suppressed and kept under control. If there are any shortcomings in our laws, we will stand ready to amend them and make them strong. If there is need for more power, we will see that this is arranged.

However, today I appeal to everyone to join in this task of finding a means to meet this challenge facing the nation. We desire effective cooperation in this regard from the legislators, Parliament, opposition parties, experts, and press. Our task is to build a responsive national unity to meet this challenge of drought.

[Passage omitted on government's efforts for the emancipation of women] We have achieved many successes during the last 40 years. However, despite these successes and social reforms, much work remains to be done. Many old problems and certain new ones have arisen. Communal sentiments have increased in certain areas. We see that religious places and sentiments are being misused. We see that one community fights with another community, brother fights with brother, man fights with man. It is hurting our concept of secularism.

Communalism and sectarian forces are harming the unity and solidarity of our country. We fought our war of independence on noncommunalism, noncommunal sentiments, and doctrines. Today, there is no place for communalism in India. India is an ancient country where people of various faiths have been living together for centuries. We have seen that in our society people from every tradition and every faith have been living together as kith and kin. There is no place for communalism in our society and in our democracy. If we must face the challenge of secularism, it is the foremost duty of every citizen to think carefully and maintain his goodwill in his every activity. We must see that, in India, the majority of the people, who believe deeply in religion

and are religious and immensely secular, should confront those few people who weaken India, believe in sectarianism and fanaticism, and follow violence, robbery, and terrorism. There is no place in India for those who weaken the country in the name of religion.

In India, various communities have been living in peace for centuries, working together, playing together and eating together. Even then, from time to time hatred suddenly flares up, arson escalates, and terrorism begins. Generally, this has been instigated by outsiders and, at times, by religious authorities. These people weaken us through rumors, misunderstandings, and lies. Generally, the victims of this conspiracy are only the innocent people. Whenever such (?incidents) increase, innocent people suffer the heaviest losses and are severely affected. Our fight against sectarian forces cannot be fought only with legal machinery. This fight should become the fight of the people and should be fought in all localities. We must see that we all become one and fight to suppress dangerous criminals, to prevent the misuse of religion, to eliminate those who spread hatred, to defeat those who are spreading the seeds of hatred among us, and to confront those who are trying to tear apart our society.

Communalism breeds separatism and extremism. An attempt is being made to destroy our democracy by means of communalism, separatism, and extremism. We are aware of the kind of measures being taken to weaken our country and to destroy its peace. An attempt is being made to create such a feeling in our forbearing, tolerant, and peace-loving country in order to change our mode of living. We should not be cowed down by such threats. We have to face them. Whoever tries to weaken our freedom, security, and future by means of threats, pressure, and escalating conflicts will be confronted by us with all our might and will not be allowed to stand on our soil. We will not stop until extremism is totally stopped or the extremists throw down their arms and join the mainstream. However, we should not lose heart, we should not be afraid. Mahatma Gandhi said the meaning of swaraj [self-government] is not to care about death. The nation that is afraid of death will not be able to achieve swaraj, or even if it achieves swaraj, it will not be able to maintain it.

Today, the words of Mahatma Gandhi should ring in our ears and we should confront this challenge boldly. It is necessary to remember that we cannot fight by taking revenge. If we take revenge, we will do the very thing that the extremists want us to do. Revenge is the success of extremism. If we restrain our hands, extremism will become weak and will lose. We should not be entangled in this dragnet of extremism. Mahatma Gandhi said: The answer to violence cannot be violence, but only nonviolence.

In today's world, India enjoys a very eminent position. Its voice is heard with honor all over the world. Why is it that a country — which was under the yoke of slavery, was poor 40 years ago when the people thought that it could not stand on its feet, and could not remain free — is now raising its voice in such a forceful manner? This has been possible only by pursuing the ideologies and principles of Mahatma Gandhi and Jawahar Lal Nehru and by following the path shown by Mrs Indira Gandhi. We have learned to speak without fear, never to bow down to any pressure,

to follow the path of nonalignment, and to face challenges with courage and boldness.

During these 40 years, we launched a movement to end the nuclear arms race. Today, even the big and powerful nations are also following the same path. Today, after 40-50 years, we are able to effectively propagate the idea raised by Mahatma Gandhi and Jawahar Lal Nehru before our independence. It is nothing but madness to continue to produce more and more arms when the arms stockpile of today can destroy the entire world 50 times over. It is madness to continue to spend 15-20 million [currency not specified] every minute on an arms race when even a small part of that amount can help in eradicating poverty, disease, and unemployment. Today, this problem has India's full attention.

Our attention is focused on human rights and dignity. South Africa, where Mahatma Gandhi launched his first satyagrah [passive resistance to uphold truth] is still under the yoke of slavery. Even today, no flag of independence is hoisted there. This is shameful. Even after 100 years, after the sacrifices made by hundreds of freedom fighters, slavery still persists there where the torch of our freedom movement was lit and raised. We have raised the issues of the poor and the oppressed communities of the world. We have shown that our voice is a voice of balance, of tolerance, of sympathy, of truth, and nonviolence.

We signed a historic agreement in Sri Lanka last month. It was an agreement which proved that our policies were correct. It reflected the enormous strength of our foreign policy and proved that India was pursuing the correct path. This is an important and great achievement of the past 40 years. The letters and the agreement we signed have brought peace and cooperation in Sri Lanka, and have strengthened peace and cooperation in our whole region. We have also stopped the forces, the people who were coming in there [into Sri Lanka], posing a threat to the security of our entire region. We have also stopped the power blocs' rivalry which could have closely affected India, our security. The agreement has strengthened nonalignment and proved that nations can solve problems through negotiations without the aid of the big powers, without the interference and meddling of any second or third parties. We have seen that the interference of outsiders further complicates problems, making them even more difficult to resolve.

Today, on the 40th anniversary of India's independence, we must reaffirm our resolve to follow our past principles and ideologies. Our greatest achievement is the system bequeathed to us by our forefathers. We have seen that this system has grown, based on our ancient traditions, our centuries-old unbroken civilization. We have drawn inspiration from them in our freedom struggle and in building a new India. Our greatest achievement is our democracy. We must keep alive and strengthen our democracy. We must see that it is not weakened. Even so, we see that certain elements are trying to weaken and break it. This system has been working for the past 40 years. We have seen that India has become strong, remained united, marched forward, and been able to compete with the world. If anyone undermines the confidence of the Indian people, if anyone tears apart our democracy solely for his own petty political gains and progress, then we must confront him. We have to ensure that they do not overcome us. We have to ensure that they do not distract the attention of

the country. We must see that they do not hatch any conspiracy to weaken the country from within or without. [applause]

Undoubtedly, there are certain things in our society, in our system, which are not good. We will ensure that every wrong-doer is punished sternly and speedily. However, today our attention should focus on the task of nation-building and not on expectations. We must focus our attention on building and developing the country. We must ensure that the defects in our system are removed with sincerity and with untiring efforts and through a change in our attitudes. We must formulate policies which can further strengthen our society and our system. That is what we are doing now.

We are making efforts for progress. We will expect efforts from all sections, especially youths [applause], to launch a national movement for the eradication of laziness, slackness, (?procrastination), and immorality. We must implement the basic principles of our culture that Mahatma Gandhi enunciated and placed before us. We must safeguard our independence and strengthen our society. We plan to utilize the services of all sections of society to help the poor and weak and to attain peaceful national and religious amity. We must see that the downtrodden, tribals, and women can steadfastly progress in all areas within our society. [passage omitted on Mahatma Gandhi's teachings]

Today I extend my greetings to my 780 million brothers and sisters, who are living in every corner of this beautiful country. This is our India. It belongs to you, me, everyone — rich, poor, young, or old, regardless of their religion, group, region, language, or culture. Our oneness is deep-rooted and our unity is immortal. We are inspired by the past to move forward with confidence toward the future. We have great faith in our independence, democracy, secularism, socialism, security, and nonalignment. We should ultimately march forward on the road to progress and strive to make India great. Thank you. Now, say loudly along with me Jai Hind [Hail India].

Protocol Signed With USSR on Sensor System Launch
BK180350 Delhi Domestic Service in English
 0240 GMT 18 Aug 87

[Text] India and the Soviet Union have signed a protocol for launching an India-developed microwave sensor system on board Soviet spacecraft. A press release of the Indian Space Research Organization in Bangalore says this has been decided as a followup of a joint Indo-Soviet workshop on space research. India's first operational remote sensing satellite using optical sensors is slated for launch in the next few months by a Soviet launch vehicle.

Defense Minister Denies Charge on Bofors Deal
BK170333 Delhi Domestic Service in English
 0240 GMT 17 Aug 87

[Text] The defense minister, Mr K.C. Pant, has said that the government has no intention of using the Official Secrets Act to hamper the inquiry by the proposed parliamentary committee on

the Bofors gun deal. He accused the opposition of trying to make political capital out of the reported kickbacks in the deal.

Participating in the Focus program of Doordarshan [television] on the Bofors issue last night, Mr Pant renewed the invitation to the opposition to join the committee. He said the government is not trying to hide anything but is keen to know the truth.

The Janata Party MP, Mr M.S. Gurupadaswamy, justified the opposition's stand on staying away from the committee.

Upper House Members Debate Colombo Peace Accord
BK171612 Delhi Domestic Service In English
1530 GMT 17 Aug 87

[Text] A team of Indian legal experts and senior officials leaves New Delhi for Colombo tomorrow. The team to be led by the Indian high commissioner in Colombo, Mr J.N. Dixit, will have discussions with the Sri Lankan Government on the residual matters of the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement. These matters were to be taken up within 6 weeks of the signing of the agreement.

In the Rajya Sabha today, members expressed the hope that the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement will be properly implemented to end the ethnic problem in the island country. The agreement, they said, would not only fulfill the legitimate aspirations of Sri

Lankan Tamils, but it will also ensure that there is no outside interference in the region.

Taking part in a short discussion, many ruling party members, as well as some from the opposition, described the agreement as the best under prevailing circumstances. They complimented the prime minister for this achievement.

Mr. Gopalaswamy, DMK, who initiated the discussion, however, expressed the apprehension that the Sri Lankan Government may go back on its promises.

Some other opposition members also pointed out that there may be difficulty in the implementation of the agreement as the Tamil militants are not a party to it and a sizeable section of the Sinhalese population is opposed to it.

They also expressed fears about the safety of the Sri Lankan Tamils when the Indian troops are withdrawn. Suggesting a cautious approach they said there have been delays in the laying down of arms by the militants. Proper conditions have to be created to hold the referendum by bringing back a large number of Tamils who have fled from the northern and eastern parts of the country.

Members from the treasury bench, however, felt that there is every reason for optimism about the agreement which has created a spirit of accommodation. The minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh, will reply to the debate tomorrow.

Government Explains Death of Saudi Attache
LD180746 Tehran IRNA in English 0732 GMT 18 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 18, IRNA — A Saudi diplomat, Musay'id al-Ghamidi, hospitalized in intensive care unit of a Tehran hospital died here Monday due to insistence of the Saudi officials to transfer him to Saudi Arabia, said an informed Foreign Ministry source here Monday night.

Upon insistence of the Saudi charge d'affaires, Al-Ghamidi hospitalized since Aug. 1, and reportedly in critical condition, was taken out of the ICU and transferred to the airport to be flown to Jeddah on an Iran Air plane. The Saudis had accepted the responsibility of discharging the diplomat from the hospital, the Foreign Ministry told IRNA.

Monday after special preparations Al-Ghamidi was taken to the airport where his general condition further deteriorated and he suffered from a hemorrhage. Physicians accompanying the diplomat and also the doctors who were to tend Al-Ghamidi inside the plane stated that flight will pose a severe danger on his life.

Therefore, the source added, Al-Ghamidi was taken back to the hospital where he died despite efforts of the physicians.

According to a Foreign Ministry source in light of the repeated warnings of Iran that the Saudi diplomat should remain in ICU and refusal of the Saudi charge d'affaires, the responsibility of Al-Ghamidi's death rests with the Saudi Government.

Al-Ghamidi fell from the Saudi Embassy building Aug. 1 and suffered fracture when a large group of Iranians in protest to July 31 massacre of the Iranian hajj pilgrims in Mecca, staged a protest demonstration in front of the Saudi Embassy. Al-Ghamidi was immediately taken to a Tehran Hospital where he underwent medical treatment.

Rezai'e 'Forcibly Expelled' From Saudia Arabia
LD172039 Tehran IRNA in English 1838 GMT 17 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 17, IRNA — In yet another provocative move the Saudi regime informed the Iranian Consul General in Jeddah last night that Imam Khomeyni's representative and head of the Iranian hajj pilgrims Hoiyat ol-Eslam Mahdi Karrubi should leave the country within 24 hours.

Announcing the above here today Central News Bureau (CNB) added that Hoiyat ol-Eslam Karrubi visited Iranian hajj caravans and related headquarters at Jeddah Airport last night and talked with pilgrims.

Meanwhile, Hoseyn Rezai'e, head of the Iranian Hajj Organization was forcibly expelled from Saudi Arabia last night together with members of the Iranian hajj headquarters in Mecca.

The Persian daily 'Keyhan' quoted Rezai'e here as saying in an interview that members of the hqs. which was set up in Mecca to resolve issues relevant to the martyrs, wounded, detained and missing Iranian pilgrims in the aftermath of the massacre had prior permission of the Saudi Interior Ministry to travel to

Medina. But the night before they were to leave for Medina armed Saudi police occupied the headquarters and forced the members to leave Saudi Arabia, said Rezai'e.

Prime Minister Views Gulf Minesweeping Operations
LD161430 Tehran IRNA in English 1359 GMT 16 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 16, IRNA — Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi said today that issue of the international waters in the Persian Gulf is too complicated to be settled by mere mine-sweeping operations in the region. Speaking after a Cabinet session Musavi told reporters that this issue mainly stems from tensions created by the illegal U.S. presence in the region. We should expect escalation of the tension and unexpected incidents which are not certainly to the benefit of any country, he added.

The U.S. is seeking a pretext to exacerbate the regional crisis, but it should realise that its military adventurism will only make Iranian people more resolute to confront it, said the prime minister. He said superpowers should withdraw from the region quickly in order to help the eventual settlement of the regional issue. Littoral countries then would be able to maintain security in the waterway without interference of any foreign powers, he added.

Meanwhile, Commerce Minister Hasan Abedi-Ja'fari told Cabinet ministers that Iran's non-oil exports were 349,000 tons valued at dlr. 305 million during the first four months of the current year (March 21-July 21). The figures are up by 12.26 percent in terms of value in agriculture, industry, mine and hand-woven carpet sectors as compared to the same period in the preceding year.

The ministers were also informed of two Iraqi counter-attacks in Nasr-7 operational region which were heavily beaten back by Muslim forces. A large number of Iraqi troops were killed and wounded and a number of others were taken prisoner during the operations.

Naval Commander Notes Minesweeping Capability
LD161911 Tehran IRNA in English 1840 GMT 16 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 16, IRNA — The recent mine-sweeping operations of the Islamic Republic Navy in the Gulf of Oman and the Persian Gulf have proved beyond doubt its capability for clearing mine-infested waters of the region, said commander of the naval forces Commodore Mohammad Hoseyn Malekzadegan here Sunday. There is no need for foreign countries like the U.S., the U.K., France or others to carry out mine-sweeping operations in the region, he added.

In a televised interview, the commodore said that mine-sweeping operations started by the Iranian Navy in Gulf of Oman and the Persian Gulf Saturday will clear international shipping lanes of mines as far as the Khawr Fakkan region.

Commodore Malekzadegan said that the Iranian Navy is ready to clear territorial waters of Persian Gulf littoral states of mines, if Iranian officials order and those countries agree on the issue.

Global arrogance led by the criminal U.S. is attempting to create tension in the region by making the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman unsafe, said the commodore.

The Iranian Navy enjoys a high state of readiness, said the Navy commander, warning if Iran's supply lines are attacked, the Islamic Republic has already drawn out relevant plans which will immediately be implemented.

Navy Official Says U.S. Laying Gulf Mines

LD171201 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0740 GMT 17 Aug 87

[Text] In an interview with a reporter from the radio's Armed Forces program, one of the operational commanders [not further identified] of the Iranian Navy referred to present developments in the Persian Gulf and commented on the offensive and defensive readiness of the Islamic Navy to carry out any assigned mission. He described that force's capability to clear mines from the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman.

Responding to a question about who is responsible for mining the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman and what efforts have been made to remove and neutralize these mines, he stated:

[Begin recording][Commander] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The world knows that the principal culprit is the United States. However, the United States has implemented a plan to deceive the public. It has resorted to propaganda in the mass media. It has attributed this mining to us. However, we have pieced together some truths and facts. We shall prove that the mining was carried out by the United States.

Why? First, on 5 August, the United States closed the coasts of Al-Fujayrah and Khawr Fakkan to shipping on the pretext of safeguarding the three Kuwaiti oil tankers that it was to escort to Kuwait. On 8 August, these vessels sailed. On 10 August, we saw that the oil tanker *Caribbean Sea* [as heard] hit a mine. Therefore, between 5-8 August, when the United States closed that area off for security reasons, it was busy laying mines. When the U.S. fleet passed through the area, it brought the *Caribbean Sea* with it so that it could hit a mine. The United States resorted to a great deal of propaganda, saying that the tanker belonged to the United States. What was the aim behind this? First, it wanted to claim that this tanker, which was carrying oil from Iran, was American and that the United States and Iran trade oil with each other. We will start right here.

An oil tanker carrying Iranian oil -- that is, the Panamanian oil tanker *Caribbean Sea* -- wants to go through the Strait of Hormuz. As you know, tankers sail on a straight line; all the accidents at sea occur because oil tankers or commercial vessels are not prepared to change course by even 500 meters -- to Ra's al-Khur and then to Ra's al-Hadd. However, we saw that it deviated 45 miles from its course and hit a mine near Al-Fujayrah, 6 miles from Al-Fujayrah to be exact. Why did the tanker change course by 45 miles? This was planned by the United States; it laid the mine.

However, a mine depends on chance. The United States was concerned with the timing; that is, it planned that an oil tanker was to hit a mine on 10 August. The United States wanted to accomplish several things at once. It arranged for the *Caribbean Sea*, which had taken on oil from Iran, to come to Al-Fujayrah and for an explosion to take place. What we do not know is whether the vessel hit a mine or whether the United States blew it up itself so that it could say that an explosion had occurred there.

However, the United States failed. As soon as the *Caribbean Sea* hit the mine, Mrs Thatcher, who had been haggling, so to speak, with the United States for some time on whether or not she would send minesweepers, immediately announced: I am sending four minesweepers. France, whose aircraft carrier *Clemenceau* sailed some time ago, said: We are sending along two minesweepers for this reason. [sentence as heard] In order to deceive public opinion, the United States stated: The *Guadalcanal*, with eight mine-seeking helicopters, will sail from Diego Garcia for the Persian Gulf. You will notice how all of these ships have sailed, thanks to a plot hatched by the United States. As soon as the *Caribbean Sea* hit the mine, the other countries made their decisions.

However, the United States has even bigger fish to fry: To threaten the regional countries, especially the UAE, with mines so that they will offer base facilities to the United States. Minesweeping ships and mine-seeking helicopters cannot operate without bases. Therefore, the United States wanted to frighten them, saying that there were mines in the area. Thus, they would cooperate and offer facilities to the United States. Of course, these plans will fail due to the fateful orders of the imam's representative in the Supreme Defense Council.

[Question] Considering the presence of U.S. and French fleets in the region, and particularly with the United States creating tension in the Persian Gulf, what will be the reaction of our forces?

[Commander] Fortunately, Iran discovered and exposed this U.S. plot in order to prove to regional countries that we are not responsible for these disturbances, that the United States is responsible, that the mines have been laid by the United States, and that this is in the interests of the United States. There is a saying: A liar has a poor memory. The United States said that Iran had laid the mine in Khawr Fakkan. Some U.S. mass media reported that the first destination of ships coming to Larak Island to carry oil is Khawr Fakkan. If Khawr Fakkan is the first destination of our oil tankers, why should we set mines there?

That is why the imam's representative ordered the Navy to clear the area of mines. Unlike the United States, we are not going to make any excuses or take political advantage of the situation. We have been minesweeping in the Persian Gulf for 7 years. For 7 years, the Iranian Navy has maintained security in the Persian Gulf. For 7 years Iraq has laid mines and we have removed them. Our whole fleet is presently mobilized. We have mine-seeking helicopters, minesweeping ships, and mine-hunting diving teams, which are among the most skilled teams in the world. With God's help, we will clear these mines, expose the United States in the Strait of Hormuz, and tell the regional countries that as long as they rely on us, we will protect them and will not allow their

security to be jeopardized. We will not allow the United States to create a disturbance in the region, using the excuse of guarding Kuwaiti oil tankers.

[Question] How do you think this military trend will continue in the strategic Strait of Hormuz region, and what conditions will the regional countries face?

[Commander] We believe that a large-scale conspiracy has been secretly orchestrated by the United States and its allies — Britain and France. It is not just a coincidence that three aircraft carriers are now sailing toward the Strait of Hormuz. The *USS Constellation* is already here and the *Saratoga* — another U.S. aircraft carrier — has passed through the Red Sea. The French aircraft carrier *Clemenceau* is sailing toward the Strait of Hormuz, as the French have announced. Why are they sending them to the Strait of Hormuz? No doubt the United States plans to increase the unrest, to carry out aggression against the Islamic Republic, and to increase support for Iraq.

As we have said, the United States needs to use the facilities of the regional countries. We advise the regional countries — Islamic Republic officials have repeatedly warned them — not to be deceived by the United States. If they make a mistake by placing their bases at the disposal of the United States, they can be sure that the fire that the United States wants to start in this region will begin in their countries. War will break out there and the reactionary regional countries will suffer the most. We have been at war for years; we do not fear it.

[Question] What is the general level of operational readiness of our forces in the Persian Gulf?

[Commander] In accordance with the orders of the chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, our task is to defend. We are waiting for the slightest sign of a U.S. attack so that the United States will receive a historic slap in the face here in the Persian Gulf. It will see the extent of our readiness. Such a war will make the United States forget the bitter taste of the Vietnam conflict. [end recording]

Naval Commander Details Minesweeping Operation *LD171801 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian* *1630 GMT 17 Aug 87*

[Text] Our correspondent has sent in a report from Bandar-e 'Abbas about the minesweeping operations being undertaken by the Navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Gulf of Oman. We now draw your attention to this report:

[Begin correspondent recording] Following the adventures of international oppression in the Persian Gulf and the mining of international waterways by the United States and its agents in the region, the Navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran began minesweeping operations on Saturday in order to clear the waters of the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman. This activity continues in full force.

According to a report from a Central News Unit correspondent in Bandar-e 'Abbas, minesweeping helicopters have been flying

over naval vessels since the early hours of this morning in order to allow the Navy to continue its patrol operations in the Gulf of Oman. The helicopters first attempted to identify the areas suspected of being mined and then flew low over the waters of the Gulf of Oman to clear an extensive area.

In the second phase of this operation, a minesweeping vessel of the Islamic Republic's Navy began its minesweeping operations using advanced mechanical technology, including magnetic and sonic techniques. Helicopters, ships, and a large number of special boats equipped with minesweeping equipment moved around the mined area and completed the minesweeping operation in the Gulf of Oman.

According to this report, the brave and self-sacrificing Navy frogmen of the Islamic Republic of Iran skillfully removed several mines from the seabed during this phase of the minesweeping operation. Following this, expert marksmen and destructive charges destroyed the mines. At the conclusion of today's operation, the naval units and their accompanying helicopters returned safely to their bases.

In an interview, one of the commanders of this operation noted that the Navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran is capable of ensuring the security of the Persian Gulf with the aid of the countries of the region. He said that the presence of the U.S., British, and French Navies will only increase tension. He added: The helicopters of the air arm of the Islamic Republic's Navy, with the aid and coordination of destroyers and other vessels of this force, carried out search and surface and underwater identification operations in the Gulf of Oman. They continue to carry out minesweeping operations with full force.

The commander continued: Having completed the necessary experiments, using all its capabilities and modern facilities and relying on the infinite power of God, the Islamic Republic's Navy has entered the area in order to show its ability and operational power to the aggressor forces which are trying to justify their presence in the Persian Gulf. We announce that ensuring the security of the Persian Gulf should be the responsibility of the Islamic Republic of Iran and other countries of this region.

I would like to add that the minesweeping operations by the Islamic Republic's Navy in the Gulf of Oman and the international waterways continue in the region with complete control and full power. [end recording]

Foreign Ships Warned

LD180922 Tehran IRNA in English 0910 GMT 18 Aug 87

[Text] Gulf of Oman, Aug. 18, IRNA — The mine sweeping unit of the Iranian naval forces discovered and destroyed several mines in the Gulf of Oman Sea, Monday. The mine sweeping unit ended its operations in the Strait of Hormuz and entered the Gulf of Oman Monday morning and started its operations around Khawr Fakkan area.

Meanwhile, commander of the mine sweeping unit has instructed all operational units to strongly respond to any movement of foreign warships and destroyers in the region intended to halt

operation of the unit. During the past two days, Iranian naval forces led two French destroyers which had approached the Iranian mine sweeping units to watch their operations, to outside of the operational zone.

Khomeyni Meets With Families of Martyrs 18 Aug
LD181136 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
 1030 GMT 18 Aug 87

[Text] At his Jamaran residence this morning, Imam Khomeyni met with members of a special group of Janbazan [those prepared to sacrifice their lives for the revolution]; the families of martyrs who have been dispatched to God's house by the Martyr's Foundation of the Islamic Revolution, having either lost their lives or are missing as the result of the bloody tragedy in holy Mecca at the hands of the filthy agents of the criminal United States; several of the pilgrims who had been beaten and battered by the mercenary police of Saudi Arabia; and the families of the martyrs, the POW's, and the missing in action from the towns of Estahabananat in Fars Province and Khonsar in the Esfahan Province.

During this meeting, Hojjat ol-Eslam Tavassoli paid tribute to the families of the martyrs, the wounded, the POW's, the missing in action, and the Janbazan. He referred to the crimes of Al Sa'ud and the U.S. agents in the bloody incident at Mecca, noting the martyrdom of several Janbazan and the plight of those mothers who have already lost three to five of their sons as martyrs. This, he said, is further evidence to be added to the criminal files of the Al Sa'ud family and the United States. On behalf of his holiness the imam, Tavassoli offered praise, gratitude, congratulations, and condolences to these families.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the imam of the ummah responded to the sentiments expressed by the audience.

Khamene'i Visit to Khorasan Province Continues

Says Mecca 'Blatant U.S. Crime'
LD171232 Tehran IRNA in English 1105 GMT 17 Aug 87

[Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Prov., Aug. 17, IRNA — President 'Ali Khamene'i said here Monday if it had not been for the world public opinion the U.S. Government would violently expand its criminal perpetrations in the world.

Speaking to a large gathering of people in Quchan, a city in this northeastern province, President Khamene'i said that the massacre of hajj pilgrims in Mecca was a blatant U.S. crime. President Khamene'i who is also head of the Supreme Defence Council said, "with the hostility the U.S. has shown since the very beginning of the Islamic Revolution, we will not show the slightest sign of compromise with them. To this end our reliance is on the power and will of the various strata of our people."

President Khamene'i said the Islamic Republic does not pose a threat to anybody in the Persian Gulf and condemns threats against safety of navigation. "But" he stressed, "if our ships in the Persian Gulf are hit by Iraq no doubt we will attack the ships

belonging to Iraq's allies. If the U.S. attacks our war ships, ports or jetties we will deal a retaliatory blow on them. The U.S. has no way back and will no doubt face an uncertain situation in the Persian Gulf."

The president said at present imperialism has placed its hope in the fronts of the Iraqi imposed war, giving itself wishful hopes for Iran's eventual defeat, while, he added Iran also would use most of its forces in there.

In another meeting in Shirvan President Khamene'i told a gathering of people that Iranian people will teach the international arrogance a lesson in war fronts that in future the Islamic Republic would not be threatened by any power.

The president stressed that the growing trend of the Islamic revolution had roused fear among reactionary governments in the region which normally stretch their hands to the U.S. for help.

President Khamene'i arrived here Saturday for an inspection tour of the province.

Responds to Reagan's Speech
LD161348 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
 1030 GMT 16 Aug 87

[Excerpts] On the second stage of his tour of Khorasan Province, President Khamene'i arrived in Bojnurd this morning to meet the self-sacrificing people and tribes of this town. [passage omitted]

Speaking to the people, President Khamene'i expressed his appreciation for the presence of the people of Bojnurd on the battlefields and for their participation in the revolution. He then went on to name the United States, the leader of global arrogance, as the main enemy threatening the Islamic Revolution. He said that the regimes of Iraq and Al Sa'ud, which had perpetrated this year's tragic incident in Mecca, are the two arms of global arrogance. These two regimes are not strong enough on their own to stand up to the powerful Islamic Republic. Khamene'i added that these two countries are lackeys which take orders from others. The main enemy of the revolution is the one that encourages the Saddams and the Fahds, the one that creates weak and trivial enemies out of these irresolute puppets to be used against our nation and interests.

Mr Khamene'i then expounded the reasons behind the threats of the enemies of the revolution in the political, military, and economic fields.

Alluding to Reagan's speech yesterday in which he said that Iran must not try to intimidate America, that the United States cannot be intimidated, Khamene'i asserted that, first, the raising of this point is yet another lie and deception. Reagan is trying to present Iran in the eyes of U.S. public opinion as the initiator, whereas we did not initiate these things and we will never do so. However, should the enemy try to hold us responsible and harm our economic interests, we will not remain idle and, by relying on God and the power of our nation, we will deal a crushing blow. We will resist all conspiracies.

Second, if the Islamic Republic is such a power that it can intimidate the United States, then why do you bother to challenge the Islamic Republic? He stated: Our dear and faithful nation is determined to continue the war until aggression is eliminated, the aggressor becomes penitent, and the nose of arrogance is rubbed in the dirt. [passage omitted]

Meets With Guards Corps

LD181157 Tehran IRNA English 1145 GMT 18 Aug 87

[Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Prov., Aug. 18, IRNA — President 'Ali Khamene'i said Tuesday that the conspiracy of bloody massacre of Mecca was carried out simultaneously and in coordination with U.S. plots at the Persian Gulf. He stressed that the blood shed in the incident would not remain unanswered.

The U.S. military presence in the Persian Gulf and the bloody Mecca conspiracy were part of a chain of plots of world oppression to strike blows upon the Islamic revolution of Iran.

President 'Ali Khamene'i who made the remarks at a meeting with members of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) here further said that the plots did not bring any outcomes for them so far. Contrary to their imaginations, the Mecca bloody crime made the world people disgusted of the U.S. and its lackeys, he added.

On world oppression's plots in the region, the president said that in a new encounter, the U.S. has shown it is willing to face Iran. "But we believe", he said, "that they themselves hesitate whether or not to carry out their plans. They are panicked by the grandeur of the Islamic revolution".

He reminded that following the U.S. sending of fleets to the Persian Gulf, they forced Iraq not to attack Iranian ships so that Iran would not be forced to retaliate, and thereby suggest that the U.S. fleet was successful.

The president warned that in case Iranian ships be attacked at the Persian Gulf, undoubtedly those of Iraq's allies would be attacked by Iran regardless of who is escorting them.

President Khamene'i described the Mecca bloody crime as a move to make the divine shrine insecure and to disrepute Iranian hajj pilgrims and citizens. "We believe that the incident was planned in advance and understand that Monafeqin (MKO), proving their subservience once again, have cooperated with the Saudi regime in the incident.

In conclusion, the president reminded that Iran would not give up but would rather find out and publish in-depth reports of the incident and respond in due course.

Fisheries To Purchase 36 Trawlers From PRC

LD181051 Tehran IRNA in English 1046 GMT 18 Aug 87

[Text] Bandar-e 'Abbas, Hormozgan Prov., Aug. 18, IRNA — Iranian fisheries is to purchase 36 fishing trawlers and increase

its fishing tonnage by 40,000 tons this year, said an official at Hormozgan fisheries here today.

The official said an Iranian delegation during a recent visit to China signed a dlr. 20 million protocol in the fields of fisheries industries, research, shrimp culture as well as purchase of Chinese fishing trawlers. Of the 36 trawlers, said the official, 18 are to be manufactured at Iranian shipyards with the transfer of Chinese technology to Iran. Eight 300-ton trawlers are also to be purchased from China.

Agreement has also been reached with Chinese officials for construction of three canned-fish factories in three Iranian ports with a total daily capacity of 70 tons, said the official, noting that the two countries are also to team up to construct cement and metal jetties for which China is to transfer its know-how to Iranian experts.

Tehran Comments on 'Islamic Awakening' in Egypt

NC161002 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0330 GMT 16 Aug 87

[Commentary by Central News Unit research group]

[Text] A former Egyptian minister recently escaped an assassination attempt. Al-Nabawi Isma'il, who was Egypt's interior minister when Al-Sadat was assassinated, was shot at by four armed men who easily escaped from the scene.

No organization has so far claimed responsibility for the attempt on the life of Al-Nabawi Isma'il who, during his term of office as interior minister, strongly suppressed the Muslims. Nevertheless, Zaki Badr, Egypt's current interior minister, has said that according to eyewitnesses one of the attackers was bearded. Badr was referring to the Egyptian youths who are faithful to Islam and who are today described as religious extremists or fundamentalists.

Six years ago, on the eve of Al-Sadat's assassination, Al-Nabawi Isma'il, as interior minister, issued orders for the arrest and strong suppression of Egypt's revolutionary Muslims following riots in some Egyptian cities. Four months ago, a similar incident took place in Cairo, when Hasan Abu Basha, also a former interior minister, who succeeded Al-Nabawi and who is notorious for his enmity toward revolutionary Muslims, was likewise the target of an assassination attempt. He was seriously wounded. Since then, two U.S. diplomats and the editor-in-chief of a well-known Egyptian magazine that endorses the Camp David agreement were also targets of assassination.

The interesting point is that the attempt against former Interior Minister Al-Nabawi Isma'il came at a time when a conference in Cairo, held to discuss what has come to be known as religious extremism, was in its final stages. This is why the Egyptian newspapers have described the recent attempt, and the fact that it took place while this conference was in progress, as a provocative act and have linked the two events. The conference was held to discuss religious extremism and was attended by several clergymen of the regime, as well as by officials of the Egyptian Armed Forces, police force, and government. The participants

concluded that the confrontation against what they call terrorism should be increased and that high-ranking officials should be protected. They also stated that current laws should be reviewed and measures taken to enable judges to deal with such cases immediately. However, the most important point made at the conference on confronting religious extremism in Egypt was that there should be a widespread educational campaign among the people to teach them how to resist so-called extremist ideas. Al-Azhar University is to undertake the major role toward this end.

Despite these recommendations, it is already clear that since Al-Sadat's rule, the use of force and suppression has not been able to prevent the expansion of the Islamic awakening among the Egyptian people. The Egyptian regime intends to take steps to prevent the people from being influenced by Islamic groups — a people who are Muslim and who are dissatisfied with the corruption in their regime and its dependence on the West. Even Egyptian officials themselves confess that despite the religious discourses that are published in textbooks or propounded by the mass media, the people are told that religion is separate from politics and that Islam does not accept brutality and armed uprising. Nevertheless, it is clear that in view of its regional and international dependence on the West, its anti-Islamic policies and its economic crisis, the Egyptian regime cannot meet the demands of the Muslim people of Egypt. Moreover, the Islamic awakening has spread to such an extent that the Egyptian Muslims will not give in to anything but the implementation of divine teachings and the establishment of Islamic rule.

Indictment Presented Against Mehdi Hashemi

*LD171943 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 17 Aug 87*

[Text] The court trying Mehdi Hashemi ended its sessions today and began its deliberations. The trial started last Thursday.

According to a Central News Unit report, during the first session of the court, the prosecutor of the special court for the trial of the clergy announced in an indictment: In view of the existing witnesses and evidence in the indictment, it is clear that the accused, Mehdi Hashemi, organized and lead terrorist groups and gangs for the purpose of abducting people before and after the revolution; amassed arms and ammunition; created a network of influence in various organs and establishments; stole documents and collected classified information; and by establishing an organization of notorious and deviationist individuals, intended to seize power and rule by introducing a new system in line with his own deviated way of thinking. He also created trouble by sowing sedition, terror, and panic.

Therefore, in view of the admission and clear confession of the accused, in view of the deposition on the discovery of weapons and the related reports with photographs, and in view of a video report on the discovery of the bodies of murdered people and of circulars, seals, and stamps, the equipment used for forging state documents and other stolen documents in his file, it is certain that the said individual is guilty and is a clear example of a corrupt individual and mohareb [one who wages war against God].

During the court sessions, Mehdi Hashemi accepted the indictment on his role in organizing and leading various terror and abduction gangs before and after the victory of the Islamic Revolution. He also clarified the point that the murders of Jahan Soltan Ara'i, Ramezan Mehdizadeh, Sheykh Qanbar 'Ali Safarzadeh, and Seyyed Abdolhasan Musavi-Shamsabadi were committed under his direct orders and supervision.

The accused also described the details of the murders before and after the revolution and explained his own involvement in the murder of Engineer Bahreynian and 'Abbas Qoli Heshmat and his two sons.

Iraq Prepares To Resume 'War of Cities'

LD181245 Tehran IRNA in English 1235 GMT 18 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 18, IRNA — The Iraqi regime has renewed its bombing of Iranian villages in preparation for resumption of the war of the cities, and the silence of international organizations is likely to encourage the Baghdad regime in its war crimes, said a spokesman of the War Information Headquarters (WIH) here today.

The WIH spokesman called on international bodies and specifically U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar to react to Iraq's war crimes, and noted that if the Baghdad Government should continue its perpetrations Iranian Muslim combatants would give it a firm response.

On August 13 Iraqi warplanes bombed Darmanabad, Abbasabad and Mirsheykh Heydar villages near the Western border town of Sardasht, and later on August 16 they bombarded the village of Yarumi, a suburb of Ahvaz, and Salehabad on the outskirts of Mehran martyring and wounding several civilians including children.

Some industrial plants in Khuzestan and East Azarbayjan Provinces were also bombarded by Iraqi warplanes over the said period at which a group of workers were martyred or injured.

Combat Operations in War With Iraq Continue

Shelling of Al-Basrah Denied

LD171307 Tehran IRNA in English 1212 GMT 17 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 17, IRNA — An Iranian official here Monday described as 'mere lies' the Iraqi claims Sunday that Iran had shelled Al-Basrah and Qal'at Dizah of Iraq.

The War Information Headquarters (WIH) spokesman said that the Iraqi regime occasionally publishes such false claims to justify its planned attacks upon non-military targets in Iran as it had done on two villages in western and southern Iran Sunday.

In the attack, he said, Iranian civilians including a number of children were martyred or wounded. The WIH spokesman vowed that Iran's Muslim forces would not sit silent in the face of continued Iraqi attacks.

Centers Shelled 'in Retaliation'*LD171720 Tehran IRNA in English 1654 GMT 17 Aug 87*

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 17, IRNA — Iraqi economic-industrial centers around the cities of Al-Basrah, Al-Zubayr and Barzan were shelled by the Iranian artillery in retaliation for Baghdad's recent mischievous acts, Joint Headquarters of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) announced here today.

According to the headquarters Iraqi port installations in Umm Qasr sustained heavy losses as the Iranian artillery continued to shell it today.

Iraqi Jetties, Umm Qasr Shelled*LD172023 Tehran IRNA in English 1839 GMT 17 Aug 87*

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Aug. 17, IRNA — Iraq's Al-Basrah and Al-'Amayah jetties were heavily shelled by Iranian artillery fire today in retaliation for Iraqi bombardment of industrial units and villages in Iran which martyred and wounded several civilians.

Iraqi command headquarters, motor pools and oil reservoirs along the port city of Umm Qasr were also set afire during the retaliatory shelling which killed and wounded a group of Iraqi troops.

Communique No 2,930*LD161728 Tehran IRNA in English 1706 GMT 16 Aug 87*

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 16, IRNA — Iran's Muslim combatants attacked Iraqi forces in west of Heights 670, Helaleh operational region, western fronts at 19:30 GMT Friday, forcing them back and destroying their positions, according to a military communique released here Sunday.

Communique Number 2930 of the Joint Staff Command said that the Muslim combatants also captured parts of Iraqi positions infiltrating more than 400 meters into enemy defences. Iraqi forces sustained irreparable damage and casualties and were forced to flee during their eight futile counterattacks in the said region as of yesterday afternoon.

In western Maymak heights, the Muslim forces of Iran launched limited attack on Iraqi forces at 10:00 GMT Friday, liberating some heights in the region and strengthening their defence positions. At noon the same day, Iraqi forces attempted a futile counter-attack which was repelled by the combatants. Several Iraqi forces were killed and wounded in the counter-attack.

Meanwhile, Iranian combatants of Division 64 carried over 31 patrol missions in the northwestern fronts, inflicting considerable losses on the Iraqi forces, while exchange of artillery fire raged on these fronts, being somewhat more intense on the Hajj 'Umrani heights.

On the southern fronts, Iran's Gendarmerie Forces continued strengthening their positions and checked engineering activities of the enemy forces. Parts of Iraqi positions were set afire and

three vehicles of theirs were destroyed in the region alone, where some ten enemy forces were killed and wounded.

Iranian Navy intercepted six foreign cargo ships and tankers, but allowed them to proceed their voyage since they had no Iraqi-bound cargo aboard.

Iraqi Bombings Kill Civilians*LD161736 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Aug 87*

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, following their repeated defeat on the battlefronts, today the Iraqi Ba'th Armed Forces bombed two villages in the western and southern regions of our country. As a result, a number of our civilian compatriots were either martyred or wounded.

The same report indicates that during the bombing of a village near Mehran this afternoon, six of our civilian compatriots were martyred. A group of them were also wounded and several residential units were damaged. As a result of bombing a village near Ahvaz, one civilian was martyred and three others were injured.

Iraqi Targets in Umm Qasr Hit*LD171215 Tehran IRNA in English 1055 GMT 17 Aug 87*

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Aug. 17, IRNA — Iranian coastal artillery fire shelled military and industrial targets in the Iraqi port city of Umm Qasr on Monday in retaliation for the Iraqi bombings of two villages in western Iran and industrial units in Khuzestan during the past few days.

Sources said the reprisal shelling will continue until Iraq discontinues attacks upon non-military targets in Iran.

Iraqi Counterattack Repulsed*LD171705 Tehran IRNA in English 1643 GMT 17 Aug 87*

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 17, IRNA — Scores of Iraqi troops were killed during their ninth consecutive futile counterattack in the Helaleh Region, western fronts, which was soundly beaten back by the Muslim combatants of Iran at 15:00 GMT Saturday, said a military communique here Monday.

The 2931st communique of the Joint Staff Command said that exchange of fire raged on between Iran's Muslim forces and enemy troops throughout the battle fronts setting ablaze several Iraqi gun-emplacements, observation posts, a munitions dump and some 82 mm guns.

Iranian Division 64 conducted 29 reconnaissance operations at sensitive points of the fronts, and the patrol units returned to their bases safely after carrying out their missions successfully. Several Iraqi Kalashnikovs were seized in these operations.

Meanwhile, the Iranian Navy intercepted six cargo ships and oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz yesterday, but allowed them to continue voyage since no Iraqi-bound cargo was found onboard.

Elsewhere in the fronts, Iraqi forces sustained substantial damage and casualties in Sayyid Sadiq, Neikharzar [placename as received], Zobeydah, and Nahr 'Anbar operational regions when their attempts to unload vehicle columns carrying troops and 106mm guns, were heavily shelled by artillery fire of the Muslim combatants.

Iran's Gendarmerie Forces killed and wounded some Ba'thist troops in the southern fronts yesterday destroying ten gun emplacements and two vehicles of theirs, concluded the communique.

180 Iraqi Casualties Reported

LD172006 Tehran IRNA in English 1821 GMT 17 Aug 87

[Text] Ilam, Aug. 17, IRNA — Iranian ground forces soundly beat back an Iraqi counterattack in the Maymak Operational

Region, western fronts, last night, inflicting heavy damage and casualties on the enemy forces and forcing them to flee.

Over 180 Iraqi troops were killed and wounded in the course of the repelled counterattack and 12 foxholes, three vehicles, a munitions depot, two mortar launchers of theirs were destroyed by the Iranian Muslim forces.

Exchange of heavy gunfire continues to rage in the operational theatre.

Iraqi Planes Bomb Industrial Sites

LD171709 Tehran IRNA in English 1645 GMT 17 Aug 87

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Aug. 17, IRNA — Iraqi warplanes bombed three industrial units in Khuzestan Province Monday afternoon.

Some workers were martyred and wounded and the units damaged in the course of the Iraqi bombardment.

Protest Lodged on Afghan Border Violations

*BK171536 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 17 Aug 87*

[Text] The Kabul administration's forces fired 25 artillery shells nearly 2 kms south of Now Darreh in the Mohmand Agency on the 2d of this month, killing two Pakistanis and injuring five others. On the same day, the Kabul forces fired 57 rockets which fell on the Shilman area of Khyber Agency. A Pakistani citizen was injured and one civilian pickup truck was damaged in this shelling. The Kabul forces fired 70 artillery shells on the 5th of this month which landed about 4 km northwest of Ghakhai in the Bajaur Agency, resulting in the death of one Pakistani citizen. On the 8th of this month, the Kabul forces launched 16 rockets which landed at Now Darreh, damaging a mosque.

The Afghan charge d'affaires was summoned to the Foreign Office today and a strong protest was lodged with him on these unprovoked attacks.

President, Prime Minister Greet Indian Leaders

*BK150252 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 15 Aug 87*

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq and Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo have greeted President R. Venkataraman and Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on India's independence day. They affirmed that Pakistan attaches great importance to the establishment of good-neighborly and cooperative relations with India and will continue to make every possible effort to achieve this objective. They also expressed their best wishes for the continued progress and prosperity of the Indian people.

Paper Questions Logic of Postponing U.S. Aid

BK151359 Lahore JANG in Urdu 1 Aug 87 p 10

[Editorial: "Suspension of U.S. Aid"]

[Text] The opponents of a proposed U.S. aid package to Pakistan have partially succeeded in their objectives. A U.S. congressional panel has recommended that the initial year of aid under the \$4.02 billion aid program for Pakistan be given to that country, but that it should be postponed from 1 October 1987 to 15 January 1988. During this period, the U.S. President should assure Congress that the Pakistani Government is cooperating fully with the U.S. Government in investigating the case against Arshad Parvez, a Canadian citizen of Pakistani origin who has been charged with exporting a special type of steel to Pakistan.

Since the Arshad Parvez case was brought to light, the U.S. Government has consistently given the impression that the issue of U.S. aid to Pakistan has run into difficulties as a result and that it would not be easy to persuade Congress to approve the aid.

The Pakistani Government made it clear at the outset that it had no connection with the Arshad Parvez case, nor did it have any direct or indirect link with the firm for which the steel was allegedly being exported.

Talking to editors of national dailies in Lahore the other day, Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo also pointed out the absurdity of the allegation, saying that if Pakistan needed to import that steel why should it do so from the United States and invite trouble. If Pakistan really needed the steel, then it would have tried to import it from a country where there would be no risk. The prime minister said that the incident reflects a conspiracy against Pakistan-U.S. relations and the aid package for Pakistan and that there are probably elements behind it which want to harm Pakistan.

The U.S. Congress has not totally rejected the Pakistani stand and argument, nor has it accepted them. It has adopted the middle path. While approving the aid in principle, it has also decided to suspend it for a period of 3 and 1/2 months. Pakistanis can only regret this U.S. decision, as we noted in our editorial yesterday. The U.S. Government should have refrained from taking any hasty action on the issue of aid to Pakistan. It should at least have waited for the verdict of the U.S. court to see whether it held the Pakistani Government responsible, directly or indirectly, for the Arshad Parvez issue.

Assuming that the charges against Arshad Parvez are substantiated, but it is not proven whether the Pakistani Government had any link with the deal or with the whole incident, then in that case there would be no justification for punishing Pakistan for one individual's misdeed. If the relevant U.S. congressional panel had opted to wait, then Pakistan-U.S. relations might not be faced with the jolt that they are now certainly going to feel.

Pakistan-U.S. relations are deep and comprehensive. A mutually beneficial cooperation has flourished between the two countries for the last 7 or 8 years, since it is in the interest of both countries. Neither country was doing any favor for the other. Now, if the U.S. decision taints these relations and if pressure on the Pakistani Government not to accept any strategy or condition that is repugnant to national dignity and prestige increases from within the country, then it is very likely that the present limited tension will assume greater dimensions and the prospects for mutual cooperation will be marred by misgivings and suspicions. At this stage we cannot expect the U.S. Congress to ignore the panel's latest suggestions when considering the aid bill, for the suggestion constitutes part of a premeditated strategy. But we would certainly ask the Pakistani Government to make a fresh review of its options in light of the panel's suggestion to see if the hastily made U.S. decision has any justification and whether it is incompatible with our own national dignity and prestige to accept it as it is. We hope the Pakistani Government will adopt a strategy that provides the best guarantee of protecting the country's interests.

Reportage on Grenade Attack in Parliament House**AFP Reports Attack on Ministers***BK180453 Hong Kong AFP in English 0448 GMT 18 Aug 87*

[Text] Colombo, Aug 18 (AFP) — Several ministers were wounded when two hand grenades were thrown at a government parliamentary group meeting here Tuesday, witnesses said.

National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali was said by witnesses to have been injured "fairly seriously".

President Junius Jayewardene, who was presiding over the meeting in a committee room in Parliament, was not hurt in the attack which took place at about 9:00 a.m. (0330 GMT).

Parliament was due to reconvene an hour later following the July 29 signing of an Indian-brokered peace accord to end the island's four-year Tamil separatist struggle.

Some 15 members of the government group were injured according to the witnesses, but it was not immediately clear who they were.

The witnesses said the attack came from a store-room which opened onto the committee room.

"Apparently the door was flung open and two hand grenades thrown into the room," one witness, a local journalist said.

Opposition parties have opposed the accord as a sell-out to India and street protests at the time of the signing left some 60 people dead here.

It was not immediately clear how many attackers had penetrated into Parliament nor if they had any political affiliations.

The army and police had launched a joint security operation to try to prevent further violence feared to coincide with the reconvening of Parliament. Thousands of armed soldiers and police were deployed in the capital Tuesday.

Police had described the security measures as the tightest seen in Colombo for years.

Sri Lanka's Parliament stands several kilometres outside the capital in the middle of a lake at Sri Jayawardenapura.

LANKA PUWATH Confirms Attack*BK180520 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0518 GMT 18 Aug 87*

["OANA/pool item]

[Text] Colombo, Aug 18 (*Lanka Puwath*) — Some ministers were reported wounded when two hand grenades were thrown into a room where the government parliamentary group was meeting at about 0900 hours (local time) this morning, before the sitting of Parliament, official sources told *Lanka Puwath*.

Special Presidential Message*BK181126 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 18 Aug 87*

[Text] This morning while the government parliamentary group was meeting in a committee room within the Parliament building, three explosions occurred inside the room. Except for six members of Parliament who sustained injuries, all others present were unhurt. The government has requested the general public to remain calm as all steps are now being taken to apprehend those responsible for this criminal action.

In a special message, President Jayewardene said that this was an attempt by certain terrorist groups to undermine democracy and threaten the unity and sovereignty of this country. He has further said that the government has been able to stop terrorism in the north and in the east. While observing that incidents of this nature could happen in the future, the president explained that this type of situation helps to destroy whatever gains we have made in the recent past.

Referring to the explosion in the Parliament this morning, President Jayewardene said that several cabinet ministers and MP's suffered injury.

The explosions have occurred a few minutes before the president addressed the group meeting.

Seated on the president's right hand side was the prime minister and the minister of parliamentary affairs, Vincent Perera, was seated on the president's left hand side. The other ministers and MP's were seated facing the president.

The president said that at the moment there was a sound of an explosion, either of a bomb or a gunshot, and this led to a lot of confusion.

Mr Jayewardene has said that although he and the prime minister did not suffer any injury, there was blood splash on the president's clothes. This, he said, would be preserved as a memento. Ones injured were ministers Lalith Athulathmudali, Vincent Perera, E.A.B. Hurulle.

The deputy ministers and district ministers injured included Percy Samaraweera, Keerthi Abeywickrema, and G.B.S. de Silva.

Injured Ministers Listed*BK180749 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 18 Aug 87*

[Excerpt] An explosion rocked the Sri Lankan Parliament today, injuring at least 15 persons, including the prime minister and 5 other ministers. They are the national security minister, Mr Lalith Athulathmudali; the parliamentary affairs minister, Mr Vincent Perera; the plantations minister, Mr Jayewickreme; the minister for culture, Mr Hurulle; and the agriculture minister, Mr Gamini Jayasuriya. [passage omitted]

Attacker Escapes in Confusion

BK180641 Hong Kong AFP in English
0624 GMT 18 Aug 87

[By Barry Parker]

[Excerpt] Colombo, Aug 18 (AFP) — At least two ministers were among about 15 members of the Sri Lankan Government party wounded in a grenade attack in Parliament here Tuesday, witnesses said. Two hand grenades were thrown into a meeting of about 140 government MP's, witnesses said.

National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali, a key member of the government, was said by the witnesses to have been injured "fairly seriously" and Public Administration Minister Montague Jayewickreme "not too seriously hurt".

President Junius Jayewardene, who was presiding over the meeting in a committee room in Parliament, was not hurt in the attack which took place at about 9:00 a.m. (0330 GMT), the witnesses added. The others were understood to have suffered minor injuries, but they had all had been taken to two hospitals.

Rohan Perera, a reporter with the Sri Lankan *Daily News*, was in Parliament during the attack. He told *Agence France-Presse* the grenades were flung from a store-room which linked the committee room with a second chamber. "Apparently the door was flung open and two hand grenades thrown into the room," he said.

Although no one was certain, MP's at the meeting presumed only one man had thrown the grenades. He had apparently escaped in the ensuing confusion, Mr Perera said, as no one had been arrested so far.

Parliament was due to reconvene an hour after the attack following the July 29 signing of an Indian-brokered peace accord aimed at ending the island's four-year Tamil separatist struggle.

The house was adjourned until Thursday. [passage omitted]

Junior Minister Dies

BK180918 Hong Kong AFP in English
0911 GMT 18 Aug 87

[Text] Colombo, Aug 18 (AFP) — A Sri Lankan junior minister died Tuesday after an explosives attack on government members in Parliament, hospital sources said. Matara District Minister Keerthi Abeywickrama died in Colombo's general hospital from wounds sustained in the attack.

Five other ministers and deputy ministers were among about 12 MP's wounded during a meeting of the ruling United National Party's parliamentary group, officials said.

Sri Lanka has 26 district ministers who have the rank of deputy or junior ministers. Matara is in the south of the island republic.

Jayewardene Blames Banned Party

BK180805 Hong Kong AFP in English
0801 GMT 18 Aug 87

[Excerpts] Colombo, Aug 18 (AFP) — Sri Lankan President Junius Jayewardene blamed members of a banned Marxist party for an attack in Parliament here Tuesday which he said had wounded six government MP's. He told state-run radio that neither he nor Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa were injured. Witnesses said the premier suffered a minor leg injury not caused by the blasts but in the chaos which ensued.

Mr Jayewardene said "southern terrorists" were responsible for a gunshot and two explosions in Parliament. He was referring to the outlawed Janata Vimukti Peramuna (JVP — People's Liberation Front) which led a bloody insurrection against the government here in 1971. Some 10,000 people died in the unsuccessful insurrection. [passage omitted]

Mr Jayewardene, speaking in Sinhala said: "We expect more attacks like this. But we want to stress that we will continue our struggle to protect democracy in Sri Lanka." Mr Jayewardene listed three full ministers, two deputy ministers and one member of Parliament among the wounded.

National Security Council Meets

BK180842 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 18 Aug 87

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The Parliament, which opened amidst tight security, met for only 5 minutes and adjourned till Thursday [20 August]. Security was tightened in and around the Parliament complex after the explosion. Security in Colombo has also been strengthened.

Mr Jayewardene later convened a meeting of the National Security Council at his residence to take stock of the situation.

Lifting of Emergency in North, East Delayed

BK161237 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English
1220 GMT 16 Aug 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Aug 16 (*Lanka Puwath*) — The lifting of the emergency in the North and East and the setting up of an interim-administration in these two provinces are being held up owing to the sporadic surrender of weapons by the armed separatist groups, highly placed sources said, according to the front page lead story in today's *Sunday Observer*.

The emergency in these two provinces should have been lifted by yesterday the latest under the terms of the Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord signed between Sri Lankan President J.R. Jayewardene and Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on July 29.

Clause 2.9 of the agreement states that "the emergency will be lifted in the Eastern and Northern Provinces by August 15, 1987".

The *Sunday Observer* report continues, the same clause said that the "process of surrendering arms and the confining of security personnel moving back to barracks shall be completed within 72 hours of the cessation of hostilities coming into effect".

The government extended the deadline for the surrender of arms by another three days initially. However current indications are that the surrender is not taking place as expeditiously as expected necessitating a delay in the lifting of the emergency in the two provinces and establishing the interim administration.

Varying estimates of the number of weapons actually handed over to the authorities are being given. But by all accounts, including high-ranking Sri Lankan military sources, not more than 10 per cent of the weapons have been surrendered so far.

The leaders of two groups, the Eelam Revolutionary Organisation [of Students] (EROS) and the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF) have already arrived in the northern peninsula from Madras.

EROS leader Velupillai Balakumar and its military strategist Rajee Shankar arrived in Jaffna by Indian Air Force plane last Tuesday, while EPRLF leader K. Padmanabha and its Central Committee member Loganathan Ketheeswaran arrived in Jaffna on Friday, well informed sources said.

Both groups are expected to be in Batticaloa this weekend to arrange for the surrender of their arms. EROS is said to have about 300 men under arms in the Eastern Province while the EPRLF, considered the more dominant group in the East, is believed to have an estimated 400-500 armed men. However, the EPRLF lost its dominance in parts of the East after violent clashes with the rival LTTE late last year.

The *Sunday Observer* states with the leaders of these two groups returning to Sri Lanka authorities expect that the surrender of weapons will be speeded up in the next few days. Indian military authorities have said they hope to have most of the weapons in by August 18, when Parliament resumes sittings.

Indian High Commissioner Jyotindra Nath Dixit said that Major-General Harkirat Singh, commander of the Indian peace-keeping force here, and another senior officer met him on Friday to discuss ways of expediting the arms surrender and other matters connected with the peace accord.

It is not immediately known when the Indian troops will go in search of the weapons if the expected number is not handed over to the authorities. The Indian side is keeping the "deadline" rather flexible to give the armed groups an opportunity to come up with their arms caches.

Meanwhile the joint patrolling of the northern waters by the Sri Lankan and Indian Navies started last Friday on a more coordinated basis, official sources said. The patrolling will cover most of the area from Adam's Bridge in the northwest through Palk Bay and the Palk Strait to around Mullaitivu in the northeastern coast. The round-the-clock naval patrols will be supplemented in the day by air patrols, sources said.

Civil Administration Being Reestablished in Jaffna *BK171122 Colombo International Service in English* 1045 GMT 17 Aug 87

[Text] The civil administration is being reestablished in Jaffna. Our special correspondent reports that the Jaffna police station will reopen on the 21st of this month. S.P. [superintendent of police] Sangala Silvaratne told our correspondent that police will commence duties and establish close relations with the public. The People's Bank will make arrangements over the next 2 weeks to enable those pawned their jewelry to redeem such item.

Our correspondent also says that families who left the Jaffna Fort area are now returning to their homes. Transport is normal and prices of items, such as rice, vegetables, and other consumer articles, have dropped appreciably. Wholesale and retail trade has commenced.

Meanwhile, the Sri Lanka and Indian Navies have started joint patrolling in the territorial waters of Jaffna.